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3.1 PLAN OVERVIEW

The Plan Section establishes the overall long-range purpose and vision for the future of ABDSP. Specific goals and supporting guidelines further clarify the vision of the Park. These goals and guidelines are designed to rectify the currently identified issues described in the Issue Section, while providing a solid foundation for continued resource protection, preservation, rehabilitation, recreational opportunities, as well as facility development and interpretation at the Park. The goals and guidelines provide direction for future park managers and set the parameters for subsequent management and development plans.

This General Plan is, by necessity, visionary in nature. Although currently identified issues drive much of its content, future park issues cannot be fully predicted. Therefore, a general plan is designed to establish desired future conditions of both natural and cultural resources as well as desired visitor experience. This visionary approach allows managers the opportunity to apply new resource information, emerging technologies, and improved management concepts for resolving current issues, along with the ability to provide adequate direction for resolving issues that may arise in the future. The overall visionary goal for the ABDSP General Plan is to provide management guidelines that will enable visitors to enjoy the park while protecting the resources that make the park unique and special to its many visitors.

3.2 PARK-WIDE MANAGEMENT DEFINED

3.2.1 DEPARTMENT MISSION

A hierarchy of mandates directs management of ABDSP. The most general mandate is California State Parks' Mission to:

> ***"Provide for the health, inspiration, and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation."***

The *Mission* sets the fundamental parameters within which the California Department of Parks and Recreation acquires, plans, and manages its 277 units. Each unit of the state park system is also defined by its classification as a State Park, State Reserve, State Beach, State Recreation Area, Off Road Vehicle Recreation Area, or State Historic Park while incorporating the Department *Mission*. Inherent in the *Mission* is the potential tension between the charge to preserve resources and the charge to provide high-quality outdoor recreation. Department planners and managers resolve this potential tension by linking resource preservation with recreation. They define "high-quality recreation" as that which is completely dependent on the "high-quality" of the natural and cultural resources within a State Park. The degree of "high-quality recreation" is directly proportional to the degree of success in preserving the state's most valued natural and cultural resources.

The challenge is not so much to balance between the two (preservation and recreation), as if success is found by sacrificing a bit of one for the sake of the other. Rather, the challenge is to

provide public access to and enjoyment of the resources without sacrificing the very resources that the public values for recreational experiences. In state parks such as ABDSP, where there is a wealth of significant natural and cultural resources that are extremely sensitive to public use, the first priority is to manage for the health of the resources, then determine the maximum degree to which the public can access and enjoy the very resources to which they are drawn, without compromising their experience by compromising the condition of the resources.

3.2.2 CLASSIFICATION

Further refining the responsibilities of California State Parks in its operation of ABDSP are the unit-classification as a *State Park* and its sub-classification of *State Wilderness*. These classifications are described in the PRC, §5019.53, and §5019.68, as follows:

State Park Classification, PRC §5019.53:

> *State parks consist of relatively spacious areas of outstanding scenic or natural character, oftentimes also containing significant historical, archaeological, ecological, geological, or other such values. The purpose of state parks shall be to preserve outstanding natural, scenic, and cultural values, indigenous aquatic and terrestrial fauna, and flora…*
>
> *Each state park shall be managed as a composite whole in order to restore, protect, and maintain its native environmental complexes to the extent compatible with the primary purpose for which the park was established.*
>
> *Improvements undertaken within state parks shall be for the purpose of making the areas available for public enjoyment and education in a manner consistent with the preservation of natural, scenic, cultural, and ecological values for present and future generations. Improvements may be undertaken to provide for recreational activities including, but not limited to, camping, picnicking, sightseeing, nature study, hiking, and horseback riding, so long as such improvements involve no major modification of lands, forests, or waters. Improvements, which do not directly enhance the public's enjoyment of the natural, scenic, cultural, or ecological values of the resource, which are attractions in themselves, or which are otherwise available to the public within a reasonable distance outside the park, shall not be undertaken within state parks.*

State Wilderness Classification, PRC §5019.68:

> *State wildernesses, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, are hereby recognized as areas where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man and where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. A state wilderness is further defined to mean an area of relatively undeveloped state-owned or leased land which has retained its primeval character and influence or has been substantially restored to a near-natural*

appearance, without permanent improvements or human habitation, other than semi-improved campgrounds, or structures which existed at the time of classification of the area as a state wilderness and which the State Park and Recreation Commission has determined may be maintained and used in a manner compatible with the preservation of the wilderness environment, or primitive latrines, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which:

(a) Appears generally to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

(b) Have outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

(c) Consists of at least 5,000 acres of land, either by itself or in combination with contiguous areas possessing wilderness characteristics, or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.

(d) May also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

3.2.3 PARK PURPOSE, MISSION, AND VISION

The Declaration of Purpose, Mission Statement, and Vision Statement, describe the overall purpose, mission, and vision for ABDSP. These statements are the foremost park-specific directives and set the tone for all of the goals and guidelines presented in this General Plan.

3.2.3.1 Declaration of Purpose

Back in 1928, the impetus for the establishment of ABDSP was to preserve the unique native palm groves and treasured desert lands of the western Colorado Desert that were threatened by human impacts. Subsequent acquisitions and additions included lands supporting unique natural habitats, scenic vistas, valuable historic and prehistoric sites, as well as diverse recreational opportunities. Today, the original purpose for the creation of the Park remains valid. However, with increased knowledge of resources and a more thorough understanding of visitor uses and perceptions, this purpose has been expanded to include a fuller array of current issues and influences at ABDSP.

The Declaration of Purpose defines the purpose of the Park and is broad statement of management intent. It is specific to ABDSP and defines the Park's reason for being. A declaration of purpose is required by the PRC, §5002.2(b): "setting forth specific long-range management objectives for the Park consistent with the Park's classification…." Subsequent management directives described in this General Plan shall support this Declaration.

The original purpose statement of ABDSP, as follows, was proclaimed by the State Park Commission and adopted by the State Park Director on March 20, 1964:

> ***"…. to make available to the people forever, for their inspiration, enlightenment, and enjoyment, a spacious example of the plains, hills, and mountains of the western Colorado Desert, embracing extensive zones of unimpaired natural integrity, and representing all the varied scenic, historic, scientific, and recreational resources of the region."***

Through the course of the general plan process, it became clear to the planning team that the Declaration of Purpose needed to be updated to reflect modern park issues, public uses and perceptions, and a stronger philosophy of park stewardship. In addition, it needed to better describe the Park's unique qualities and character, and emphasize their preservation. Therefore, the following revisions have been made that reflect these current issues.

The Declaration of Purpose established for ABDSP shall be as follows:

> ***"The purpose of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park® is to preserve the unique and diverse natural, cultural, and scenic resources of this Western Colorado Desert Region and to provide opportunities for high quality recreation that supports a healthy natural environment.***
>
> ***This desert park environment nurtures peaceful solitude, astronomical clarity, amazing forms of life, glimpses of the past, and a tremendous scope for the imagination. Therefore, management of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park® will be based upon the goal of preserving, instilling an appreciation for, and making available these treasured qualities and experiences for present and future generations.***

3.2.3.2 Park Mission Statement

In 1993, California State Parks developed a mission statement for ABDSP. This mission statement describes the special tasks, level of service, and park stewardship goals for which

California State Parks shall aspire in managing the Park. The following mission statement is being adopted in this General Plan as a guidepost for present and future management actions at the Park.

> ***"The mission of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park® is to be the premier park in California in protecting and managing resources, inspiring and educating park patrons, and serving those needs of the public which are consistent with park objectives."***

- "to provide stewardship for the vast array of natural and cultural resources found throughout the Park
- to preserve the landscape and scenery of the Park in a pristine condition
- to inspire, educate, and instill a sense of wonder in park visitors about the values of the Colorado Desert
- to provide facilities consistent with the enjoyment of the Park which are clean and in good repair
- to encourage employees, volunteers, and partners to be ambassadors of the park-message through their involvement with other persons, agencies, organizations, and associations
- to sustain a work environment which encourages good health, creativity, honesty, fellowship, and a positive exchange of ideas among employees and volunteers
- to develop and maintain partnerships that are effective in helping to meet the objectives of the Park
- to provide programs which satisfy the multicultural needs of park visitors
- to delight park visitors with the service they have received from our employees and volunteers."

3.2.3.3 Vision Statement

ABDSP was originally created with the intent of preserving the fragile native palm oases at the western edge of the Colorado Desert. As time went on, this "purpose" was expanded to include the preservation of scenic, cultural, and natural resources, and to provide recreational facilities to allow public enjoyment of these outstanding resources.

The Vision Statement sets the tone for the future by stating the Park's ultimate desired condition. It is worded in the present tense to bring clarity to this vision. This vision will be manifested through time and effort, bringing forth the highest and best use of the Park. Some aspects of this vision may already be realized, while others are still attainable, sometime in the future. The Vision Statement for ABDSP is as follows:

> ***Anza-Borrego Desert State Park® is a place of awe, inspiration, and refuge. The vast desert landscape and scenery are preserved in a pristine***

condition. The full array of natural and cultural resources are cared for so as to perpetuate them for all time while supporting those seeking enjoyment from these resources. Park visitors are delighted with the condition and level of facilities, enhancing their experience of the Park. Visitors are able to access unique and special areas of the Park so as to instill knowledge and appreciation of these places. Emphasis is placed on having park visitors experience the true, real, tangible desert environment, even if it leads to some level of uncertainty or discomfort, because this leads to personal insight and perspective only gained by first-hand knowledge. The Park maintains one's ability, if desired, to camp in any particular location within the Park as long as it does not compromise the health, safety, and welfare of park visitors or compromise park resources. The Park is a place where silence can be found and total darkness achieved. At this Park, the forces of nature remain undeniably stronger than human forces, and people, in general, visit, but do not remain.

3.2.4 MANAGEMENT ZONES

Management zones in this General Plan describe the overall management purpose and intent of specific regions within the Park as well as depict their intended uses. Each zone provides direction for the general level and type of development and use within the Park. The management zones below are ordered, in general, from the highest intensity of visitor use to the lowest. Areas within each zone may also have varying degrees of use intensity.

There are six management zones used in the ABDSP General Plan. All zones are governed by the direction provided through the "State Park" classification (PRC 5019). Four of these zones were created specifically for this plan: Information/Entrance Zone, Focused Use Zone I, Focused Use Zone II, and Backcountry Zone. The remaining two management zones are also sub-classifications used throughout the State Park System and are formally defined by the Public Resources Code: State Wilderness (PRC 5019.68 and Cultural Preserve (PRC 5019.74). Future data collection, resource sensitivities or new acquisitions may create the need for establishing Natural Preserves (PRC 5019.71) and additional Cultural Preserves within any one of the Management Zones. (See Table 5.6 "Management Zone Matrix"; and Figure 6.6 "Management Zones Preferred Alternative")

3.2.4.1 Information/Entrance Zone

Purpose and Intent

Visitor information and over-all park orientation shall be the primary focus for these very small areas. The Information/Entrance Zones shall serve only as brief stopping or parking areas upon entering the Park boundaries. Locations shall include kiosks and/or seasonally staffed contact stations where visitors may stop to gather Park-related opportunity brochures, maps, and safety and regulatory information. Appropriate development and maintenance of such zones is thought

to help further visitors' understanding of the diverse resources as well as enhance their visit to the Park.

Camping

Information on the variety of ABDSP's camping areas will be available at the Information/Entrance Zones; however, camping shall not be allowed within this zone.

Facilities

Within this zone, facilities will be limited to a minimal level. Use of self-contained resource-friendly systems such as composting toilets, solar electricity, etc. shall be sought for use in these areas should they be necessary. Where staffed contact stations are deemed appropriate, limited facilities (i.e., water, restroom, and electricity/communication features) may be provided. The use of lighting, if necessary, shall be subdued. Interpretive panels may also include trail, camping, safety, and other information for Park orientation, aiding in successful and enjoyable desert experiences for Park visitors.

Social Experience

The Information/Entrance Zone may serve as a meeting point for visitors traveling separately or for Park tour groups. Staff/visitor interaction may occur in locations that are seasonally staffed. The social experience within this zone is not a primary emphasis, however since it serves as a stopping point for many who enter the Park, this zone will likely foster a variety of social interactions for visitors.

Activities

Although no activities will be offered in this small zone, it may serve as a meeting/starting point from which activities may proceed (such as tours or other group activities). Depending on future trail system planning, some of these zones may be utilized as small trailhead parking areas.

3.2.4.2 Focused-Use Zone I (FUZ I)

Overview

FUZ I concentrates high impact activities into small, highly regulated areas. The restrictions in these areas guarantee a high level of resource protection by limiting camping to designated campgrounds. The Zone also offers the opportunity for developing the following types of recreational facilities:

- family and group campgrounds
- equestrian campgrounds and staging facilities
- picnic areas
- restrooms

- trails
- roads
- visitor centers
- camp stores
- lodging

Purpose and Intent

Recreational and interpretive opportunities, and placement of administration and maintenance facilities are the primary purpose for this zone. The major intent for FUZ I is to effectively accommodate the high visitor density often associated with the Park's springtime visitation. FUZ I is intended to provide a place for visitors to enjoy the desert with access to modern facilities. It is also intended to act as a base-camp with modern facilities for visitors who wish to explore the Park by foot, vehicle, horse, bike, or other approved means. FUZ I will offer facilities and conveniences for Park users who want to experience the desert but do not have the means, ability, or desire for rugged backcountry or wilderness exploration or camping. It will also provide an orientation area for those who want to begin experiencing the rugged desert first-hand. FUZ I will provide a certain degree of safety and modern convenience for visitors.

Camping

Developed or semi-developed individual and group camps will be provided to accommodate the range of visitors. FUZ I will provide opportunities for equestrian camping and staging, as well as vehicle, RV, group, hike-in, and bike-in camping activities. Because this is a heavily used zone, camping will be restricted to designated campsites or camping areas in order to preserve the desert's character and to minimize negative impacts to the resources.

Facilities

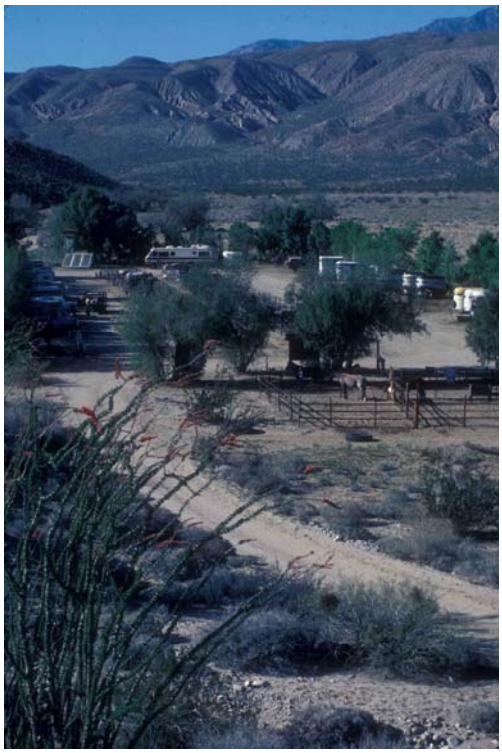
Fully developed support facilities and concessions may be located in FUZ I. Features may include picnic tables, fire receptacles, shade structures, flush toilets, showers, drinking water, horse corrals, electrical hook-ups, and trash receptacles. When possible, structures will reflect the character of the Park. Easy, well-maintained trails will accommodate all ability levels.

A high degree of interpretive and educational opportunities may be available through such features as visitor centers, information kiosks, trail panels, and maps. There may also be paved interpretive trails and/or roads. Other interpretive and educational opportunities may include native plant display gardens, wildlife displays, slide shows, and information regarding Park-sponsored nature hikes and seminars. FUZ I may also provide some shelter from severe weather conditions, like flash floods or extreme temperatures. FUZ I will provide convenient access to the Park's road and trail system.

Social Experience

A high degree of contact with other users provides the possibility for interaction among different groups. An opportunity to meet, interact with, and build relationships with new people and recreational groups will occur, allowing for exposure to the many different activities that are common in the desert. All-access trails will promote the intermingling of all age groups and promote family bonding.

A high density of users can lead to increased levels of sound, litter, and artificial light. Noise caused by motorized vehicles, group camps, and a high density of people is possible in this area. During high visitation periods, FUZ I may not provide many opportunities for solitude. Campsites are expected to meet full capacity during high use times; therefore, campers may dominate much of the viewshed. Well maintained trails will be closely associated with FUZ I. Frequent contact with Park staff can be anticipated.



Activities

Opportunities for appropriate and legal forms of recreation will be allowed in FUZ I. These activities may include, but are not limited to bird watching, horseback riding, mountain biking, hiking/backpacking (nature hikes), stargazing, and wildflower viewing. FUZ I will offer the greatest access for individuals with disabilities and will provide convenient access to well-maintained roads and trails. Day-use areas will be designated and will include facilities such as picnic tables and shade ramadas.

Park rules and regulations will provide an element of safety to all different types of users and may be more restrictive than in other management zones.

3.2.4.3 Focused-Use Zone II (FUZ II)

Overview

This zone concentrates moderately developed uses into small, highly regulated areas. The restrictions in these areas guarantee a high level of resource protection by limiting camping to designated areas. Focused Use Zone II offers the opportunity for developing the following types of recreational facilities:

- primitive family and group campgrounds
- primitive equestrian campgrounds and staging facilities
- toilets
- trails
- roads
- interpretive elements

Purpose and Intent

A balanced mix of nature and human elements coexist in FUZ II. Recreational opportunities accompanied by some opportunities for solitude and minimal facilities are the primary purpose of this zone. A major intent for FUZ II is to effectively accommodate visitors who are seeking a more rugged experience, but also desire some minimal conveniences. FUZ II will typically offer some opportunities for solitude, however, at peak visitation, those opportunities are expected to

decrease. FUZ II is intended to provide a primitive base-camp for visitors who wish to explore the Park by foot, vehicle, horse, bike, etc. To the extent possible, a sense of isolation will be accomplished by utilizing natural features of the land to create distance or barriers between campsites.

Camping

FUZ II will support primitive individual and group camping. Group camps will be limited in size in order to better offer a sense of isolation for the visitors in this zone. Because FUZ II is also a heavily used area, all camping will be restricted to designated sites or areas in order to preserve the desert's character, resources, and the zone's sense of isolation. Minor resource modification may take place in order to create areas for Park users. FUZ II will provide opportunities for car camping, equestrian camping, as well as hike-in and bike-in camping.

Facilities

Semi-developed facilities will be located in FUZ II. Structures will maintain the character of the Park whenever possible. Picnic tables, fire receptacles, shade, vault toilets, hitching posts, and water may be available. A lack of trash receptacles in some locations will require visitors to pack out everything that is packed in. Although some facilities will be present, there will not be an emphasis on modern amenities. These facilities may increase enjoyment but are not meant to dominate the area or landscape.

Interpretive and educational opportunities such as informational kiosks and signs bearing trail names, safety reminders, and other Park information will be present in this zone. FUZ II may provide some shelter from severe weather conditions, such as extreme temperatures. FUZ II will provide a moderate-level of access to the Park's road and trail system. Utilizing sustainable materials, all-weather trails and/or roads may also be provided here.

Social Experience

A moderate to high degree of contact with other users provides an opportunity for interaction among different groups. Although campsites may seem hidden and secluded, contact with other visitors will be high, especially during periods of peak visitation. Groups with diverse recreational goals are expected to come in contact with each other in this zone. Because campsite design will attempt to incorporate separation and isolation, sound levels and artificial light will be reduced. A moderate amount of noise caused by motorized vehicles can be anticipated. Trails that lead away from this area will offer more opportunities to explore values associated with solitary or peaceful experiences in nature. Trail segments near FUZ II may have a relatively high-density of users and allow a diversity of recreational activities. Contact with park staff can be anticipated.

Activities

Opportunities for appropriate and legal forms of recreation will be allowed in FUZ II. These activities may include, but are not limited to, bird watching, horseback riding,

mountain biking, hiking/backpacking (nature hikes), stargazing, and wildflower viewing. FUZ II will typically offer access to the Park's myriad of unpaved roads. This Zone will primarily offer camping, day use, wildlife viewing, and shorter, easier hikes. As in FUZ I, more extensive recreation activities will occur along the perimeters and outlying areas of FUZ II. Individuals with disabilities will be able to access much of this zone; however, portions of it may pose difficulty without vehicle or equestrian assistance. Day-use areas may also be provided.

Park rules and regulations will provide an element of safety for all visitors, and will allow some opportunities for wildland challenges and testing of outdoor skills. Speed limitations for mountain bikers, vehicles, and equestrians may be emphasized near heavy use areas for protection of all user groups. Knowledge of outdoor survival skills is a moderately important tool for those visiting this zone.

3.2.4.4 Backcountry Zone (BZ)

Overview

This zone provides the most freedom to the visitor, with fewer regulations governing camping. Typically, vehicles are allowed to park adjacent to roads, and drinking water is not available. The BZ offers the opportunity for developing the following types of recreational facilities:

- road-side campsites and rest areas
- trail-side campsites and rest areas
- trail-side hitching posts
- toilets
- trails
- roads
- minor interpretive elements

Purpose and Intent

A predominantly natural environment with moderate evidence of human existence will preside over the BZ. A major purpose for the BZ is to protect natural and cultural resources while providing a diverse range of outdoor recreational opportunities. The area will primarily stay unmodified, with the exception of primitive roads, trails, and campgrounds. The BZ is intended to protect the natural rugged desert environment for visitors who wish to explore the Park by foot, vehicle, horse, bike, and for those who wish to set up camp in a relatively unmodified natural desert setting. This zone will provide an area for Park users to experience the primitive open space and natural elements of the desert. (Refer to Table 5.6, Management Zone Matrix.)

Camping

The BZ will offer primitive campsites as well as the opportunity to "open camp." "Open camping" is defined as camping anywhere throughout this zone with the

exception of roads, atop vegetation, within 200 yards of any water source, or in specifically designated "no-camping areas." A selection of isolated Backcountry campsites may also be provided for access by equestrian, hiking, or mountain biking trails. Vehicles must stay on designated roads at all times; however, they may be parked off the road one vehicle width. This zone provides opportunities for an extremely isolated camping experience, with the option of vehicle or horse access nearby.

Facilities

The Backcountry Zone will provide roads and trails for use by vehicles, hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians. New roads and trails may be developed as necessary to protect sensitive resources or to provide new experiences to Park visitors. Vault toilets will be available at some primitive campgrounds. A lack of trash receptacles requires Park visitors to pack out everything that is packed in. Minor interpretive and/or educational opportunities will be provided. Hitching posts may be available for equestrians in designated areas.

Social Experience

A medium to low degree of contact with other users provides an opportunity for a secluded experience. Isolated campsites for a variety of user types will be located near roads and trails. Noise and artificial light will be minimized due to the lack of facilities and a low density of park users. Interaction with other visitors will not be emphasized in the BZ. A higher potential for encounters with wildlife will exist in this zone. Other nature values such as beauty, harmony, and peace, will be promoted; however, meaningful experiences will vary among park users. Although these values are literally "hard to define" for each individual, an effort to provide opportunities for these experiences will be emphasized. Contact with park staff can be anticipated but may typically be infrequent.

Activities

Opportunities for appropriate and legal forms of recreation will be allowed in the BZ. These activities may include, but are not limited to, street legal off-highway vehicle driving, mountain biking, horseback riding, hiking/backpacking (nature hikes), and wildflower viewing. Extensive opportunities for rugged, outdoor recreational activities will occur in the BZ. Vehicles, bikes, and horses must stay on designated trails and roads, although hiking and backpacking will be allowed off trail. All vehicles are required to remain on designated roads, but may park off the road one car-width. Parking and camping will not be allowed atop vegetation.

The rugged nature of this zone may limit access for some individuals; however, highway-legal vehicles will provide access for those with physical disabilities. Existing roads within the Backcountry Zone provide additional opportunities for visitors of all ability levels to experience the wide variety of settings, resources, and values that the Park has to offer. Horseback riding would allow for a portion of this population to experience the Backcountry Zone on trails provided that they were capable of providing or obtaining horses and any necessary assistance mounting. An emphasis will be placed on wildland challenges and testing of outdoor skills. Knowledge of outdoor survival skills will be a necessary tool for those visiting this zone, and the Park will not supply water.

3.2.4.5 Wilderness Zone (WZ)

Purpose and Intent

As stated in the PRC (5093.31), the purpose of Wilderness is to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas on state-owned lands within California, leaving no areas designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition. Boundaries for the proposed wilderness areas are delineated to avoid affecting existing roadways. Among other things, the expansion of designated wilderness is intended to prevent bisecting the natural areas and vistas so important to the public's enjoyment of ABDSP with man-made features such as utility corridors. The Wilderness Zone provides an additional level of protection to park resources that is commensurate with the importance of those resources to the Park. While the General Plan does not propose to close any roads currently open to the public with the additional Wilderness Zone acreage, roads may be recommended for closure or relocation, by the future Roads Management Plan. If such a road were located along a boundary to the Wilderness Zone, relocation into the Wilderness Zone would require a change in sub-unit classification to be approved by the State Parks and Recreation Commission.

The General Plan proposes to add approximately 19,122 acres (17 new areas) to four existing wilderness areas in the park. These areas will be included in the existing Santa Rosa Mountains State Wilderness, the Grapevine Mountain Wilderness, Sheep Canyon Wilderness, and Vallecito Mountain Wilderness. In addition, two new wilderness areas are proposed that would equal about 36,675 acres (2 new areas). This number reflects the acreage on Figure 6.6. These new wilderness areas are titled "Wil-yee Wilderness" and Sin Nombre Wilderness." The total proposed acreage for additional and new wilderness equals approximately 55,797 (19 new areas). See Figure 6.6 "Management Zones Preferred Alternative Map" for the location of these proposed additional and new wilderness areas.

Proposed Additional ABDSP Wilderness Areas:

Wil-yee Wilderness – The proposed Wil-yee Wilderness, consisting of approximately 29,482 acres, is located in upper Coyote Canyon north of Santa Rosa Mountains SW and east of Coyote Canyon Road, in the Riverside County portion of the Park. This parcel was not in the Park when the existing Wilderness Areas were classified in 1974 and 1982. It is in a roadless area rich in natural and cultural resources similar to those in existing adjacent Wilderness Areas providing a home for endangered Peninsular bighorn sheep, mountain lions and mule deer. The area is geographically and biologically diverse, with habitats containing Pinyon pine, juniper, and Coulter pine. Although the area is bordered by the Coyote Canyon Road, this area has exceptional opportunities for experiencing quiet and solitude. The Cahuilla Native American people lived in the Canyon for hundreds of years prior to European exploration, and "Will-yee"

is the Cahuilla name the Coyote Canyon area. Its meaning is similar to "the opening," "the clearing," or "the parting." The name was suggested by representatives of the modern-day Cahuilla tribe in consultation with State Park staff.

SIN NOMBRE WILDERNESS **–** The proposed Sin Nombre Wilderness is located in the southern part of the Park north of County Road S-2, separated from Carrizo Badlands SW on the north by Carrizo Creek Wash Road, bounded on the west by Canyon Sin Nombre, and on the east by the Coyote Mountains Federal Wilderness. It is proposed to add this new Wilderness to the Park, consisting of approximately 7,193 acres. This pristine roadless area includes the valuable desert wetland resources of Carrizo Marsh, several sensitive species of flora, important cultural and paleontological sites, and spectacular scenic resources with high quality badland formations. This area is one of the most isolated in the Park, with tremendous opportunities for experiencing solitude. "Sin Nombre" is Spanish for "without name."

Camping

The Wilderness zones will typically offer the opportunity to "open camp." "Open camping" is defined as camping anywhere throughout this zone with exceptions including on top of vegetation, within 200 yards of any water source, and in specifically designated and posted areas with sensitive resources. These resource-sensitive areas will be approximately delineated by Superintendent order, reflecting the necessity to disallow camping in specified areas. There are no roads within Wilderness areas, however, many roads lie on the border of Wilderness areas, and they often provide "corridors" of vehicular access between Wilderness areas. Cars may pull off a distance of one-vehicle width on these roads, as long as no wildlife or vegetation is impacted, damaged, or destroyed. Some areas may contain sensitive resources and therefore, an exception to camping will be posted for resource protection purposes.

Facilities

The Wilderness Zone will provide trails for use by hikers and equestrians. New trails may be developed as necessary to protect sensitive resources or to provide new experiences to park visitors. A lack of trash receptacles requires park visitors to pack out everything that is packed in. State Wilderness allows for the existence and construction of low profile primitive toilets, and low profile interpretive signage. Emergency access by helicopter or motor vehicle is allowed for public safety purposes.

Social Experience

Visitors will experience an area of low-level use, which offers minimal contact with others. Within this setting, visitors will have maximum opportunities for immersing themselves in the natural elements of the desert. The experience may also include exerting oneself physically and mentally within the rugged topography, extreme climate and undeveloped conditions.

Activities

Opportunities for appropriate and legal forms of recreation will be allowed in Wilderness areas. These activities may include, but are not limited to horseback riding, hiking/backpacking, and plant and wildlife viewing. While hiking and backpacking are allowed off trail, horseback riding

is confined to designated trails. Extensive opportunities for a rugged outdoor experience are available in Wilderness areas.

The rugged nature of this zone may limit access for individuals with disabilities to areas adjacent to existing roads or trails. Horseback riding would allow for a portion of this population to experience the WZ on designated trails provided that they were capable of providing or obtaining horses and any necessary assistance mounting. Also, nearly 100 miles of unpaved roads that border Wilderness areas or lie in a "corridor" between wilderness areas provide vehicular as well as the aforementioned equestrian, mountain biking and hiking access through State Wilderness. These roads provide additional opportunities for visitors of all ability levels to experience the wide variety of settings, resources, and values that the Park has to offer.

An emphasis will be placed on wildland challenges and testing of outdoor skills. Knowledge of outdoor survival skills is a necessary tool when entering the Wilderness Zone. Preparation and knowledge of the desert is important for a safe visit. In the Wilderness, watering facilities will not be provided.

3.2.4.6 Cultural Preserve Zone

Purpose and Intent

The purpose of Cultural Preserves is to preserve culturally significant sites, buildings, or zones that represent significant places or events in the flow of human experience in California (PRC 5019.74).

We-nelsch Cultural Preserve – Located in the western-most wedge of "Scissors Crossing" (the intersection of County Road S-2 and State Highway 78) in the San Felipe Valley. The General Plan proposes to classify this land, consisting of approximately 428 acres, as a Cultural Preserve. This property is at the center of a very large Kumeyaay Native American village complex that was occupied until the early 20th century. The plentiful natural resources attracted the Native Americans to this rich area at the juncture of mountains and desert. The village was the site of one of the first major interactions between Native Americans and Europeans in the region, and was the subject of many nineteenth century diaries, including that of John W. Audubon. The Native American village complex holds vestiges of Indian culture spanning from pre-historic times through 1903 when local Indian groups were evicted from ancestral lands.

This natural crossroads area would later attract European explorers and settlers, and includes portions of the Mormon Trail, Southern Emigrant Trail, and Butterfield Stage route. The site of the Butterfield Overland Mail Company's San Felipe Stage Station, which operated from 1857 to 1861 as the regional changing station, is also found in the proposed Cultural Preserve. Subsequent to its use in the stage route, this location continued to serve as an important stop for travelers throughout the 19th and 20th Centuries. The site of San Felipe is significant in the history of regional transportation.

"We-nelsch" is the Kumeyaay place-name for this village, as noted in the papers of Edward Davis, who was present when the Native Americans in the village were moved to the Pala Reservation in 1903. The place name was translated by Cinon Duro, Head Man of the Mesa

Grande Kumeyaay people at the time, as meaning "rock move." This name is indicative of the seismic activity in the area. The adjacent area to the south is still commonly known as Earthquake Valley. This name was chosen for the Cultural Preserve in consultation with the members of the modern-day Kumeyaay community.

Camping

In order to protect the significant resources of this area, camping is not allowed in the Cultural Preserve Zone.

Facilities

In the Cultural Preserve Zone, complete integrity of the cultural resources shall be sought, and no structures or improvements that conflict with that integrity shall be allowed.

Social Experience and Activities

Visitors will have the opportunity to experience the Cultural Preserve Zone in a manner that does not compromise the integrity of the significant resources. An extremely low-level of visitor impact is desired for this area. Potential activities may include guided interpretive tours, trail or road use in an adjacent and less-sensitive area with over-looks and interpretive points, and interpretive and educational displays and programs at the visitor center (refer to Figure 6.10 "Preferred Alternative Close-ups" and Table 5.6 "Management Zone Matrix"). Complete integrity of the resources and interpretation of their significance is the primary focus of this Cultural Preserve.

3.3 GOALS AND GUIDELINES

3.3.1 PARK-WIDE GOALS AND GUIDELINES

This section presents the goals and guidelines that apply park-wide for planning facilities for public access, interpretation, recreation, park administration, and cultural and natural resource management. It addresses planning issues that apply to all geographic areas of the Park. The Declaration of Purpose and Park Vision drive these goals and guidelines, as well as those for specific areas of the Park.

3.3.1.1 Data Driven Management Decisions

Land management decisions are complex, and detailed site-specific data is often unavailable. However, lack of, or delay of management actions for intensive studies or additional data can result in costly damage or the irreversible loss of sensitive habitat or species, and qualities that provide a desirable visitor experience.

> **GOAL – Data 1:** Land management actions will be based on sound scientific data. However, if such data does not currently exist and resource integrity appears in imminent

danger, management action will be taken with the best available information and expertise of park staff and other associated experts.

GUIDELINE – Data 1a: A range of actions for resource protection could include closure or relocation of visitor use areas, permanent or seasonal closure, access by lottery, permits, interpretation/education, institution of restoration projects, etc.

GUIDELINE – Data 1b: Develop a resource-based emergency action plan.

3.3.1.2 Physical Resources

Geology

The Park's spectacular desert vistas are a direct result of its geological history, and tectonism. The geological formations of the desert are a major contributor to the grand and colorful desert landscapes of ABDSP. Although appearing rugged, vehicles and subsequent erosion can easily damage the varied geological formations and outcrops.

Further documentation and preservation of the fragile geological formations is important, and care must be taken to maintain their integrity.

GOAL – Geology 1: Protect and preserve the unique geological resources and features of ABDSP.

GUIDELINE – Geology 1a: Support efforts to geologically map the stratigraphy and lithological formations and structural features in the Park.

GUIDELINE -- Geology 1b: Assess illegal vehicular traffic and increase levels of protection in critical badlands areas.

GUIDELINE -- Geology 1c: Management plans and decisions with respect to facilities development and visitor access and recreation must recognize and accordingly mitigate negative impacts to these fragile geological features.

GUIDELINE -- Geology 1d: Preserve fragile geological features, especially the badlands areas. Badlands are particularly vulnerable to destructive vehicle traffic and to a variety of other human activities. Care must be taken to maintain their integrity.

GUIDELINE -- Geology 1e: Protect and monitor the Mud Caves for changes caused naturally or by humans.

GUIDELINE -- Geology 1f: Identify and monitor significant geological features. Take protective measures where necessary.

GUIDELINE -- Geology 1g: Adequately and professionally, manage and care for the geological collections.

GOAL – Geology 2: Promote a better understanding and a greater appreciation of the geological resources of ABDSP.

GUIDELINE -- Geology 2a: Develop criteria that identify geological features and resources appropriate for public interpretation.

GUIDELINE -- Geology 2b: Analyze geological resources and data to best interpret the geological history of the Park.

GUIDELINE -- Geology 2c: Develop partnerships with universities to further scientific research and educational opportunities. Incorporate results from scientific research into geological resource management.

Soils

Soil is a key component of terrestrial ecosystems and provides a base for many of the processes that support life. Incorporating soil dynamics into management decisions is perhaps most important in the desert environment, where the extremes of climate have placed pressures on life unparalleled in many other terrestrial environments. The majority of the soils throughout ABDSP consist of various grain size sand and sandy loam. These soils are highly erosive, especially when located within a major watercourse or subject to flash flooding.

GOAL – Soils 1: Protect sensitive soils and promote further understanding of the role of soils and soil biota in desert ecosystems.

GUIDELINE – Soils 1a: Promote an inventory of soils throughout ABDSP. Identify specific soil types and living soil communities and develop an understanding of the way in which these soils support the region's biota.

GUIDELINE – Soils 1b: Identify and minimize visitor activities and park operations that have negative impacts on sensitive soils. Develop an understanding of the extent to which this impact further affects the water quality, plant communities, terrestrial invertebrates, birds, mammals, and other components of the region's ecosystems.

GUIDELINE – Soils 1c: Identify and protect natural sand sources that supply the material for sand dune systems throughout the Park.

GUIDELINE – Soils 1d: Incorporate an assessment of human effects on soil dynamics in future management plans.

Hydrology

Surface and groundwater quality, quantity, and natural hydrological patterns are essential elements for healthy biota in ABDSP. Much of the biota and many sensitive species throughout this region depend on isolated expressions of surface or subsurface waters. Throughout their length from headwaters to aquifer, the major watersheds that drain through ABDSP are owned by a variety of public land management agencies and private citizens. Lack of conservation ethics or breakdown of communication between these landowners may result in chronic water quality and quantity issues and exotic species problems. Agriculture, golf courses, livestock

grazing, and unsustainable urban developments are of major concern for water resources in the Colorado Desert and the natural resources of ABDSP.

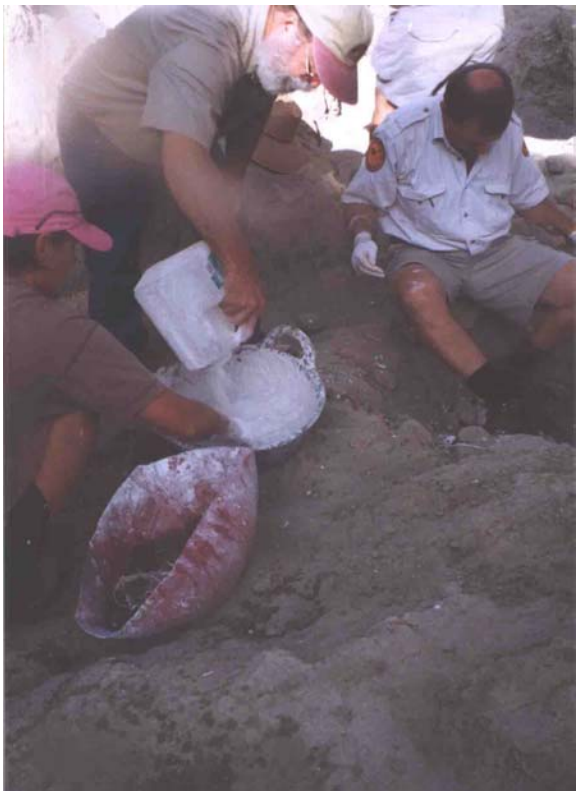
GOAL – Hydrology 1: Protect the surface water and groundwater of ABDSP and strive to restore sustainable and ecologically functional watersheds and groundwater basins throughout the region.

GUIDELINE – Hydrology 1a: Identify the sources that degrade water quality and quantity within the watersheds associated with ABDSP. Ensure that current and future park developments and visitor-use patterns do not degrade water quality and quantity. Pursue cooperative actions with watershed neighbors and users to improve water conservation ethics, reduce or eliminate the discharge of pollutants, and restore natural flow and hydrological processes. Land within critical watersheds shall be bought from willing sellers.

GUIDELINE – Hydrology 1b: Identify and monitor all private water rights within the Park and seek to acquire private water rights that are no longer active.

3.3.1.3 Biotic Resources

Paleontology



Fossils are a nonrenewable natural resource. If an organism has a fossil record, it is represented by a finite number of specimens, and that number decreases as they are destroyed by weathering, erosion, and human actions. Delimiting the geological and geographical distribution of fossiliferous deposits and evaluation of the significance of paleontological resources are prerequisites to responsible resource management.

Management plans and decisions with respect to facilities development and visitor access and recreation must not negatively impact these sensitive resources (see Figure 6.4 "Paleontological Sensitivity").

Presently, large parts of ABDSP have yet to be fully explored or surveyed for paleontological remains. The significance of paleontological resources, if any, in these unexplored territories must be assessed, and appropriate management plans formulated. Facilitating research and interpretation of fossil remains will promote an understanding and appreciation of California's

incredible prehistoric record at ABDSP.

GOAL – Paleontology 1: Protect and preserve the paleontological resources of ABDSP in perpetuity for their inherent scientific and educational values.

GUIDELINE – Paleontology 1a: Determine the geological, stratigraphical, and geographical distribution of fossil localities and potentially fossiliferous sedimentary deposits within the Park.

GUIDELINE – Paleontology 1b: Ascertain and evaluate the significance of fossiliferous sedimentary deposits.

GUIDELINE – Paleontology 1c: Intensively survey paleontologically significant deposits**.**

GUIDELINE – Paleontology 1d: Support efforts to develop cyclic surveys of paleontological resources.

GUIDELINE – Paleontology 1e: Adequately protect significant resources in place, or conserve them through recovery, such that their inherent scientific and interpretive values are not degraded.

GUIDELINE – Paleontology 1f: Monitor sensitive paleontological sites for natural degradation or vandalism/poaching. Take protective measures where necessary.

GUIDELINE – Paleontology 1g: Adequately and professionally, manage and care for the paleontological collections.

GUIDELINE – Paleontology 1h: Use the results of research and study to improve resource management procedures and methods. Promote cooperative studies and management partnerships with other concerned agencies

GOAL – Paleontology 2: Provide for an understanding and appreciation of paleontological resources and their contribution to the biological prehistory of the California landscape.

GUIDELINE – Paleontology 2a: Develop criteria that identify paleontological resources appropriate for public interpretation.

GUIDELINE – Paleontology 2b: Analyze paleontological resources and museum collections to identify and describe significant remains.

GUIDELINE – Paleontology 2c: Analyze paleontological and geological resources and museum collections and data to identify changing paleo-landscape patterns through geological time.

GUIDELINE – Paleontology 2d: Evaluate previous research and determine avenues of investigation needed to adequately understand and interpret the resources. Perform and publish relevant scholarly paleontological research.

Significant and Sensitive Biota

The present rate of decline and extinction of plants and animals supports the current global biodiversity crisis hypothesis. Greater southern California has been identified as a "hot-spot," or region where extraordinary biodiversity and endemism overlap with extreme potential of habitat destruction, when compared to other regions around the earth. Although contrary ideologies exist regarding the level of species extinctions, a large body of literature supports the theory that a global biodiversity crisis exists (Meffe & Carroll, 1997). ABDSP contains 26 of the 59 wildlife habitats recognized across the entire State by the CWHR system (1988). The Park provides habitat for and potentially supports some 157 sensitive animal and plant species. Of those, nearly 100 have been officially documented. The occurrence of such a diversity of the State's habitats and sensitive species within one park highlights the critical role played by ABDSP in sustaining healthy ecological systems and plant and animal populations in California.

GOAL – Biota 1: Protect the native biota of ABDSP.

GUIDELINE – Biota 1a: Preserve sensitive species and habitats and encourage their recovery. Comply with State and Federal environmental legislation, Recovery Plans, and Critical Habitat enacted to protect this disappearing biota. Contribute to efforts that seek to "list" species that are in need of Threatened or Endangered designation, and work to extend Critical Habitat to appropriate regions within the Park.

GUIDELINE – Biota 1b: California State Parks will identify situations where State and Federal environmental legislation is not adequate to protect native biota. California State Parks will be proactive in biological conservation and not necessarily focus on species management when other levels of biological organization may be more appropriate units of conservation. California State Parks will manage for subspecies, evolutionary units, ecologically functional units, populations, metapopulations, biological landscapes, or other levels of biological organization if those appear to be the most practical units for conserving biodiversity. California State Parks will treat as a listed species, those that meet the criteria for listing, but are not yet listed. Such treatment of species will be incorporated into park stewardship and planning in accordance with CSP's Mission and regional habitat conservation planning efforts. Habitat conservation planning efforts such as those adopted local agencies, manage for multiple species within identified habitats to enhance overall ecological goals.

GUIDELINE – Biota 1c: Ensure that the conservation of native biota is incorporated into all future developments, management plans, and visitor-use patterns throughout ABDSP, and that the protection of sensitive species and habitats receives the highest priority.

GUIDELINE – Biota 1d: California State Parks will actively incorporate inventory and monitoring efforts into land management actions. A major focus will be to quantify trends in species distribution and abundance, to document correlations between land management actions and biotic

health, and to identify sensitive species and habitats. Management strategies will be developed to counteract declines or loss of native biota if those declines are the result of human actions and appear to indicate a compromised native species or ecological system.

GUIDELINE – Biota 1e: Desert and Montane Riparian, Palm Tree Oases, Mesquite Bosques, Ciénagas, Montane Vernal Pools and Meadows, Desert Ephemeral Playas, small Springs and Seeps, Sand Dunes, and significant wildflower areas are recognized as sensitive habitats and will be managed for their biological significance and protected as critical resources that support the extraordinary biological diversity of California. All sensitive habitats in ABDSP will be assessed for individual significance and site-specific threats. The sub-unit classification of Natural Preserve may be considered for those sensitive habitats of outstanding importance for regional biodiversity and sensitive species conservation.

GUIDELINE – Biota 1f: Sensitive habitats and species will be protected from visitor uses such as camping, off-highway vehicle use, equestrian activity, mountain biking, hiking, and other visitor uses not yet established in the Park. These activities will be appropriately planned for within these habitats or in association with these species such that the integrity of the

habitat and the sensitive species is given highest priority.

GUIDELINE – Biota 1g: Wetland delineation will be performed in accordance with the 1987 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) Wetland Delineation Manual (TR Y-87-1) prior to the development of a wetland site.

GUIDELINE – Biota 1h: Extirpated Species may be reintroduced pending a detailed feasibility assessment to determine whether or not it would be appropriate given visitor uses and data that the park could support the species.

Exotic Biota

Exotic species are those that have been introduced by human actions to an ecological system from which they did not originate. Specific ecological systems involve complex relationships between biotic and abiotic elements that have evolved over substantial periods of time, and typically express a degree of balance that supports or perpetuates the species native to that system. Exotic species tend to disrupt these relationships. Once introduced to a new system, some exotics have the ability to exclude, prey upon, or out-compete the native species present. In extreme cases, exotic species may completely alter an ecological system to the extent that the system will not support the original native species. For example, the exotic Tamarisk plant consumes such high amounts of ground and surface water that riparian systems are dramatically changed. Next to habitat conversion and fragmentation, exotic species are the greatest threat to native species abundance and biodiversity. Often, managers do not have the resources and in some cases the appropriate knowledge to control exotic species. Visitor uses such as equestrian activity, camping, vehicular use, and hiking are thought to contribute to the spread of some exotic plant species.

GOAL – Ex. Biota 1: Reduce the presence and further invasion of exotic species in the Park.

GUIDELINE – Ex. Biota 1a: Support projects that quantify and map the distribution and abundance of exotic species within ABDSP and the extent to which they negatively affect the Park's native biota. Identify and implement effective methods of control and eradication, using the most effective techniques while balancing the need to reduce negative effects on the native biota and ecosystems.

GUIDELINE – Ex. Biota 1b: Support studies that determine the degree to which various visitor uses promote the spread of invasive exotic plant species. Promote awareness of those visitor activities that are shown to spread invasive exotics and develop plans that balance the control of exotic invasion and visitor access.

GUIDELINE – Ex. Biota 1c: California State Parks will form partnerships with neighbors, public agencies, and private businesses to plant native or non-invasive horticultural plant species in the vicinity of the Park.

GUIDELINE – Ex. Biota 1d: Concentrate exotic species removal efforts on rare and sensitive habitats and on exotic species that directly interact with

sensitive species. Continue efforts to remove Tamarisk from riparian areas, springs, and ciénagas, and support continued control of the Brown-headed Cowbird population, and control of trespass grazing and invasion of escaped or feral livestock.

Biological Processes

Modern conservation biology seeks to incorporate the intricacies of complex processes and functions. The obscured components of ecological systems must be recognized and valued, and a holistic approach to land management must be pursued if we are to be successful in conserving the earth's biodiversity.

GOAL – Bio. Processes 1: Protect the natural processes associated with the Park and allow them to function in a manner that supports the region's native biodiversity.

GUIDELINE – Bio. Processes 1a: Among the natural processes thought to shape the biota of the region are: the interaction of surface and ground water with soil and biota; the frequency and intensity of fire and the response to fire of the land and the living organisms; soil and slope stability and the colonization or persistence of biotic communities; and plant and animal interactions including competition, predation, and herbivory. The perpetuation and enhancement of natural processes must be incorporated into future developments, management plans, and visitor-use patterns throughout ABDSP. California State Parks will support projects that identify specific natural processes, their role in supporting the regions native biodiversity, and the extent to which park operations and visitor activities negatively affect those natural processes.

GUIDELINE – Bio. Processes 1b: Allow adequate space and time for organisms to respond in an adaptive manner to changes in habitat, climate, the human element, and other environmental variables.

Fire Management

Suppression of "wilderness lightning fires" is believed to have had significant negative effects on the biotic community of the region and especially the plants and animals of the montane and transition habitats of ABDSP's western and northern boundary. Fire suppression and a lack of prescribed burning, especially along the Park's boundary, has created a situation where natural lighting fires arising within the

Park are continually extinguished by local fire suppression agencies out of fear for the safety of the neighboring communities.

In general, fire suppression has caused the development of dense vegetation, heavy loads of fuel, higher numbers of standing dead and diseased trees, and in some situations the unchecked invasion of exotic weeds. Wildfire management is essential for human safety and the minimization of catastrophic fire damage to vegetation, wildlife, and cultural resources of ABDSP. Historic fire suppression, methods of wildfire control, and the use of prescribed fire as a management tool are important park management issues. Coordination with the U.S. Forest Service and California Department of Forestry (CDF) are important elements in the Park's fire management strategy. California State Parks will continue past cooperation with these agencies during fire events and share expertise incorporating the park and other agencies' fire data into the park's Geographical Information System (GIS) database. California State Parks will also coordinate with the U.S. Forest Service, CDF, and local fire agencies when the park's Wildfire Management Plan is updated. Additionally, California State Parks will work cooperatively with other agencies and strive to assist with fire management goals that provide a level of protection for both park lands and neighboring development through the placement of adequate buffers located outside of the park boundaries, particularly for new development projects.

GOAL – Fire 1: Manage for fire cycles and fire management actions that promote healthy ecological systems supportive of native biota.

GUIDELINE – Fire 1a: California State Parks will form cooperative partnerships with State and Federal agencies, and research institutions/organizations to develop scientifically sound objectives and methodology for prescribed burning. A greater understanding of the relationship between wildfire, prescribed fire, fire suppression, fire control, and the ecological systems of region will be pursued. California State Parks will pursue fire management techniques that promote ecologically sound firebreaks or "buffer zones" between the Park and the neighboring communities. In cases where the adjacent land is currently developed or is planned for improvement, the footprint of these "buffer zones" should be implemented off of state park property.

GUIDELINE – Fire 1b: Damage to sensitive resources will be avoided before, during, and following prescribed burns. Public safety will be ensured through notification of intent to burn and compliance with appropriate prescribed burn guidelines.

GUIDELINE – Fire 1c: California State Parks will take educational and preventative measures with the public to minimize the risk of wildfires originating within and adjacent to the Park.

GUIDELINE – Fire 1d: California State Parks must work with California Department of Forestry and other appropriate agencies and groups to ensure that the sensitive resources within ABDSP are incorporated into regional wildfire management plans and actions. Pertinent topics to be discussed include methods of prescribed fire, fire suppression and fire containment, and post-fire clean up and restoration procedures.

Landscape Linkages

Protecting Landscape Linkages and facilitating the movement and dispersal of native animals and plants within ABDSP and between the Park and other wildland areas is imperative to maintain ecosystem health and support regional conservation. Some types of land use, outside the state park boundary, cause significant negative impacts to parklands, including the spread of wildfire.

GOAL – Link 1: Maintain and enhance the movement and dispersal of native animals and plants through the Park and the regional ecosystems.

California State Parks will continue to support and work towards the preservation, protection, enhancement, and identification of regional Landscape Linkages that connect the Park to other wildland areas. California State Parks will advocate the protection of key parcels within identified landscape linkages through acquisition or other conservation mechanisms, and incorporate departmental defensive planning policies for projects that

decrease the viability of such landscape linkages. It is a standard practice of California State Parks to acquire property from willing sellers.

GUIDELINE – Link 1a: California State Parks will actively work with local, federal, transportation, and regulatory agencies in the planning of future regional transportation and infrastructure projects. California State Parks will discourage the fragmentation and isolation of habitat by such projects and ensure that adequate mitigation measures are incorporated into all road and infrastructure improvement and construction projects. California State Parks will advocate measures that consider known information on wildlife use of landscape linkages, principles of conservation biology, and other professionally accepted design criteria. An emphasis should be placed on the maintenance of habitat linkages and construction of under-crossings and bridges that allow full wildlife movement between affected areas.

GUIDELINE – Link 1b: California State Parks will plan with neighboring land and business owners, communities, and city, county, state, and Federal agencies to develop and maintain a buffer system outside of California State Parks ownership, along the outer edge of park boundaries.

3.3.1.4 Cultural Resources

ABDSP includes over 4,300 recorded archaeological and historical sites. Many of these historical resources are eligible or potentially eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places and/or the California Register of Historical Resources, or hold highly sensitive resources, such as aboriginal cremations and rock art. Due to California State Park's Mission and PRC 5024, such resources must be protected or treated according to accepted protocols for National Register sites. Large expanses of the Park have never been systematically surveyed for cultural resources, so the potential discovery of additional sites is great.

The Park is within the traditional territories of the Kumeyaay and Cahuilla, although the Cupeño and other Native American groups may also have used the area. These groups undoubtedly have areas of cultural and/or religious significance within the Park. Some areas of the Park contain sites significant in national, regional, or local history. Determination of the presence of cultural or religious sites is based on direct consultation with Native American representative or descendents of other representative groups, and documentary research. The Native American Heritage Commission also provides information about sacred sites. Protection of sites for historic significance is also based on the importance of particular locations, activities, and the persons associated with those activities.

GOAL – Cultural Res. 1: Identify, document, and evaluate cultural resources within ABDSP.

GUIDELINE – Cultural Res. 1a: Develop a program for archaeological survey, site recordation and evaluation, GPS mapping, and preparation of records and reports for the cultural resources within the Park. Nominate

those cultural resources that may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places and/or the California Register of Historical Resources (either as individual sites, historic districts, or as cultural landscapes).

GUIDELINE – Cultural Res. 1b: Facilitate classification, eligibility determination, and interpretation of the Park's historic-period resources by categorizing and/or grouping resources under one or more of the historical-period themes as outlined in the "Existing Conditions" section for Cultural Resources.

GUIDELINE – Cultural Res. 1c: Conduct research on known roads, trails, natural corridors, and segments of historic routes of travel to identify their builders, periods of use, and periods of historical significance. Contributing features, such as rock cairns, walls, cut slopes, work camps, stage stations, and others, should be inventoried, maintained, and interpreted.

GUIDELINE – Cultural Res. 1d: Conduct oral history interviews with descendants of families who grazed livestock within the Park. The information gained from the interviews will complement and expand upon existing historical data on the livestock industry, and highlight its profound effects upon the landscape.

GUIDELINE – Cultural Res. 1e: Maintain the archaeological volunteer assistance program currently active within the Colorado Desert District and enable volunteers to assist in conducting archaeological fieldwork and site-monitoring work.

GUIDELINE – Cultural Res. 1f: Establish and maintain a cultural resources research facility in conjunction with the Anza-Borrego Institute™.

GUIDELINE – Cultural Res. 1g: Solicit grants or other funding to assist with providing research opportunities.

GUIDELINE – Cultural Res. 1f: Improve and maintain the inventory of cultural resource records, cultural resource location and survey-coverage maps, and GPS/GIS database for cultural resources within the Park. These data should be available to cultural specialists throughout the California State Parks system.

GUIDELINE – Cultural Res. 1g: Inventory, analyze, and provide reports for existing archaeological collections from within ABDSP. These inventories can assist park staff in evaluating the significance of various archaeological sites more completely.

GUIDELINE – Cultural Res. 1h: Develop and maintain the archive of historic documents, journals, books, maps, and photographs pertinent to ABDSP.

GOAL – Cultural Res. 2: Identify, protect, and interpret places within ABDSP holding special cultural or religious significance to Native Americans and other ethnic communities.

GUIDELINE – Cultural Res. 2a: Consult with local Native American groups and individuals, historical accounts, and ethnographic records to identify traditional cultural properties and other special areas known by direct historical memory.

GUIDELINE – Cultural Res. 2b: Identify areas of the Park with potential significance to other ethnic communities through use of historical accounts, oral history interviews, and other means. Document and record these areas.

GUIDELINE – Cultural Res. 2c: Plan for protection and interpretation if appropriate.

GOAL – Cultural Res. 3: Protect, stabilize, and preserve cultural resources within ABDSP.

GUIDELINE – Cultural Res. 3a: Prepare a park-wide *Cultural Resources Management Plan* (CRMP) to identify, evaluate, and protect historically significant cultural resources, cultural landscapes, and traditional cultural properties. The CRMP should also:

- Develop a cultural resource management policy with up-to-date, high quality data.
- Ensure that periodic examinations and assessments of known archaeological sites, historic buildings, and historic structures are conducted. This work should consist of updating archaeological site record forms, preparing site condition assessment forms, taking photographs, site mapping, and other measures as deemed necessary.
- Assess the effects of visitor use (camping, unauthorized collecting, vandalism, vehicles, hikers, mountain bikes, horses, and other potential modes of transportation) and natural erosion on archaeological sites. The condition of sites located within areas of the Park receiving regular visitation (e.g., Coyote Canyon, Borrego Palm Canyon, Culp Valley, Mine Wash, Hapaha Flat, Blair Valley, Indian Canyon, Bow Willow, Mountain Palm Springs, Piedras Grandes, Indian Hill, Dos Cabezas, and others) should be regularly evaluated. Mitigative measures should be implemented where appreciable damage to sites is identified. Such measures can include, site-specific closures, moving roads, trails, or camping locations away from archaeological sites, revegetation, placement of signs, fencing, site burial, and other methods. Certain types of historical resources require highly specialized treatments by trained conservators, in particular, Native American rock art and adobe buildings.

- Identify lands outside of the Park that contain significant historical resources for potential acquisition. Archaeological sites and historic properties should be specifically chosen to complement those already within the Park.
- Promote cooperative research ventures with local educational institutions and other governmental agencies to complement site-management needs within ABDSP.
- Include measures to protect historical resources during wildfire incidents, flood events, earthquakes, or other natural disasters and procedures for assessing damages after a natural disaster event. Archaeological sites most vulnerable to such damage, e.g., those located along major washes, those with dense surface artifact distributions, etc., will be identified.
- Identify procedures for careful planning of new roads, trails, day-use facilities, or camping areas to avoid, or at least minimize adverse effects to historical resources within the Park. Planning for new developments may require extensive archaeological and historical research, as well as consultation with appropriate interest groups, e.g., Native American communities or other descendant groups for the area.
- Evaluate the potential effects of work by outside agencies within the Park. Those agencies or outside functions that may operate within or next to the Park include, the United States Border Patrol, United States military, San Diego County Sheriffs' Department, and other agencies.
- Formulate procedures for evaluating the potential effects of film production and photography work on historical resources. Identify areas of the Park that must be considered too sensitive to allow film production and photography work.
- Outline recognized professional standards for evaluating and conserving highly sensitive archaeological sites and historical properties that consist of unique or fragile materials.

GUIDELINE – Cultural Res. 3b: Provide the locations of archaeological sites, historic landmarks, and other historic properties to the patrol rangers and augment this information with cultural resource training. This information can assist them in monitoring the conditions of historical resources throughout the Park, including the assessment of natural erosion and possible site vandalism.

GUIDELINE – Cultural Res. 3c: Develop criteria for determining which archaeological sites are appropriate for on-site public interpretation, either by guided tour or by interpretive signs.

GUIDELINE – Cultural Res. 3d: Establish an archaeological site stewardship program within the Park using the model established by the California Archaeological Site Stewardship Program or other successful stewardship programs. The Colorado Desert Archaeological Society, a state park volunteer program directed by District cultural resource staff, maintains

training and certification standards and is the vehicle through which a stewardship program could be implemented.

GUIDELINE – Cultural Res. 3e: Using applicable California State Parks policies and *Secretary of the Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties,* maintain and restore all buildings and structures that have been determined eligible for the National Register and/or California Register of Historical Resources. Historic resource preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, or reconstruction of all eligible or potentially eligible resources shall comply with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties,* the State Historic Building Code, and resource management policies of California State Parks. The recordation of architectural elements must be performed by a qualified specialist and comply with current professional standards and California State Parks protocol.

GUIDELINE – Cultural Res. 3f: Establish a research partnership with local Native American communities to facilitate the dissemination of information about the cultural resources in the Park.

GOAL – Cultural Res. 4: Identify, document, protect, and interpret, if appropriate, archaeological and historic-period resources within culturally sensitive areas, and establish means to minimize impacts from visitor use.

GUIDELINE – Cultural Res. 4a: Future management plans will identify highly significant and sensitive cultural resources and potential threats to those resources. Management plans will also identify known impacts to archaeological sites, establish protective guidelines and operational goals, as well as establish an interpretation program that balances site interpretation with protection and preservation.

GUIDELINE – Cultural Res. 4b: Actions in future management plans will include the redirection of current visitor activities, such as hiking, camping, etc., which are damaging known archaeological sites or other cultural properties or have the potential to impact resources within culturally sensitive locations. Camping will be excluded if damage to cultural remains is documented. Other management actions to protect these areas may include rerouting trails, or roads; road closures; relocation of parking, trailheads, or other visitor facilities; and posting signs.

GUIDELINE – Cultural Res. 4c: Future management plans will identify areas of the Park with highly significant cultural remains that warrant higher levels of protection. Recommended protective actions may include Superintendent-ordered closures and designation of certain areas as Cultural Preserves.

GUIDELINE – Cultural Res. 4d: Establish standards for identifying traditional cultural properties and cultural landscapes that should be governed by a higher level of protection and utilize these standards during archaeological survey and research programs.

GUIDELINE – Cultural Res. 4e: Identify significant traditional cultural properties or sacred areas through consultation with the Kumeyaay, Cahuilla, Cupeño, or other local Native American groups.

GUIDELINE – Cultural Res. 4f: Establish standards for the treatment of fragile cultural remains, such as aboriginal rock art.

3.3.1.5 Interpretation

California State Parks' primary opportunity for engaging the public in the benefits and value of preserving desert wilderness and related cultural resources lies within the Park's interpretive program offerings. Through an intensive interpretive program, Park resources can be better cared for—protecting the Park's integrity for many generations.

Interpretation is a communication process that forges emotional and intellectual connections between the interests of the audience and the inherent meanings of the resource. Through interpretation, the Park provides experiences, information, direction, and stewardship opportunities for visitors.

GOAL – Interpretation 1: Provide opportunities to increase visitors' knowledge and appreciation of the significant natural and cultural resources of the Park, expand their understanding of ecological relationships, and heighten their awareness and sensitivity to human impacts, without compromising the integrity of the Park's exceptional resources.

GUIDELINE – Interpretation 1a: Provide meaningful interpretive opportunities accessible to as many visitors as possible by offering a diverse selection of personal and non-personal services in a variety of locations, languages, and settings throughout the Park.

GUIDELINE – Interpretation 1b: California State Parks shall strive to create "world-class" facilities that support stewardship and study of the Park's "world-class" resources.

GOAL – Interpretation 2: Include outreach efforts to develop partnerships with and support from the community for interpretive programming and environmental education. Current and potential partners include: local resorts; local Chambers of Commerce (such as Elderhostel and Borrego Days); local, regional, and non-profit organizations with similar or complimentary goals (such as the Anza-Borrego Foundation, the San Diego Zoological Society, the San Diego Archaeological Center, and the San Diego Natural History Museum); colleges and universities; concessionaires; and government agencies (such as the San Diego County Office of Education's County Outdoor Schools and Youth-At-Risk program).

GUIDELINE – Interpretation 2a: Develop outreach and partnerships with area schools, child-care, and youth groups. Create and present programs aligned with state educational standards featuring ABDSP's natural and cultural resources, as well as the scientific processes associated with recording and understanding them.

GUIDELINE – Interpretation 2b: Create unequalled youth and adult educational, research, and interpretive opportunities through *The Anza-Borrego Institute*™. The Institute is an outdoor education and research program combining the *Stout Research Center*, *Colorado Desert Archaeological Society*, backcountry seminars, interagency studies, and the Park's interpretive and specialist staff.

GUIDELINE – Interpretation 2c: Develop an ongoing relationship with the Borrego Springs School District. Create a program track that builds upon students' understanding and appreciation of park resources from year to year. This includes, but is not limited to: in-school programs, park programs, ranger ride-alongs, student internships, professional mentoring, and student service projects.

GOAL – Interpretation 3: Strive to achieve Park management goals through interpretation whenever possible, including safety, land-use, critical resources, human impacts, and other issues.

GUIDELINE – Interpretation 3a: Support staff and volunteers through training (both in content and method), materials, facilities, and evaluation to promote high quality interpretive services.

GUIDELINE – Interpretation 3b: Employ sufficient staff to meet visitor and management demand for interpretive programming.

GUIDELINE – Interpretation 3c: Reevaluate and update the existing interpretive messages on all wayside panels to ensure accuracy, cultural sensitivity, alignment with the Park interpretive plan and where pertinent, current laws and prohibitions.

GUIDELINE – Interpretation 3d: Use signs and other media to protect resources from damage due to visitor use.

GUIDELINE – Interpretation 3e: Coordinate with neighboring federal, state, and local agencies to provide information to the public that delineates the

boundaries between ABDSP, its neighboring land-management agencies, and explains the recreational policies of each.

Interpretive Themes

GOAL – Park Unifying Theme: ABDSP epitomizes nature's prevailing theme—CHANGE.

GUIDELINE – Theme: Provide interpretive experiences that help visitors understand the significant environmental changes that have taken place at ABDSP.

GOAL – Primary Theme 1: Tectonic activity and erosive forces continue to shape the landscape, building mountains, creating basins, and developing scenic wonders.

GUIDELINE – Theme 1a: Provide interpretive experiences that help visitors experience and understand the dynamic processes of geological change and how this is relevant to their lives.

GUIDELINE – Theme 1b: Provide opportunities for visitors to experience the many awe-inspiring features of ABDSP.

GOAL – Primary Theme 2: Climate changes over time have dramatically influenced plants and animals that are adapted for the current desert conditions and have led to extinction for others.

GUIDELINE – Theme 2a: Interpret the significant climate and landscape changes that have taken place at ABDSP.

GUIDELINE – Theme 2b: Enhance visitors' understanding of the prehistoric wildlife and plants found in this desert environment.

GUIDELINE – Theme 2c: Provide experiences that help visitors understand the process of fossil collection, cleaning, cataloging, storing, and interpretation.

GUIDELINE – Theme 2d: Provide information, directions, and interpretive programs / materials that promote safe exploration of the Park, so visitors are not harmed by the desert's severe climatic effects (may require multi-lingual content).

GUIDELINE – Theme 2e: Provide interpretive experiences that lead to visitor understanding of the unique adaptations of the Colorado Desert's plants and animals.

GUIDELINE – Theme 2f: Provide interpretive experiences that lead to visitor understanding of the features and mythology of the night sky.

GOAL – Primary Theme 3: The powerful effects of water can be seen throughout ABDSP in the formation of dusty arroyos, eroded badlands, slot canyons, desert washes, and palm oases, as well as in the fossils left behind.

GUIDELINE – Theme 3a: Provide opportunities for visitors to understand that the sedimentary materials of the badlands were originally laid down by oceans, lakes, and rivers and are now being carved by rain and wind erosion.

GUIDELINE – Theme 3b: Provide interpretive experiences that lead to visitor understanding that flash floods are common in the desert, due to the biannual rainfall patterns and the lack of plant life to absorb runoff.

GUIDELINE – Theme 3c: Provide opportunities for visitors to understand that rainfall patterns are the dominant factor, along with temperature and wind conditions, which determine the dynamics of the spring wildflower bloom.

GUIDELINE – Theme 3d: Strive to enhance visitors' understanding that because of the climate, the desert soil is fragile and bears scars of damage for centuries.

GUIDELINE – Theme 3e: Provide interpretive experiences leading visitors to an understanding that desert wetlands or oases are extraordinarily important to the survival of a plethora of species.

GOAL – Primary Theme 4: People have brought change upon the landscape, beginning perhaps 12,000 years ago and continuing today.

GUIDELINE – Theme 4a: Provide interpretive opportunities for visitors to see and understand how early people, and more recently the Cahuilla and Kumeyaay peoples lived on this land we now call ABDSP.

GUIDELINE – Theme 4b: Enhance visitors' understandings of the Kumeyaay and Cahuilla cultures and the effects Euro-American cultures have had on them.

- Establish an interpretive partnership with local Native American communities to facilitate the dissemination of information about the historical resources in the Park.
- Train and/or provide information to park staff and park volunteers to make public presentations on local Native American cultures and historic uses of the Park. Cultural specialists, interpreters, and other park staff will work together to develop the content of the presentations and potential visual aids.

GUIDELINE – Theme 4c: Provide experiences that further the visitors' understanding that Euro-American use of the land included a wide variety of mining, ranching, and farming development.

GUIDELINE – Theme 4d: Provide visitor opportunities to learn about the many threatened or endangered plants and animals due to loss of habitat caused by human impacts.

GUIDELINE – Theme 4e: Involve visitors in understanding that the future of ABDSP and all wild places depends upon the choices humans make regarding resource use and management.

3.3.1.6 Collections

Museum objects are unique and often non-renewable representatives of the geology, extinct landscapes, modern biotic environments, and cultural landscapes of the Park. They support the interpretive themes of the Park and are an essential element of research. As such, their conservation and care is important. ABDSP collections span nearly half a billion years of history. They include a large and internationally significant assemblage of paleontological specimens, a growing collection of biological research materials, and a large collection of archaeological artifacts representing human activities and occupation in the region dating from the mid-Holocene.

GOAL – Collections 1: Geological, biological, paleontological, archaeological, and historical collections will be conserved in perpetuity for their inherent scientific and educational value.

GUIDELINE – Collections 1a: Conservation and curation at the District Stout Research Center and acquisition and deaccessioning of specimens should follow the ABDSP *Scope of Collections Statement* (see Appendix 5.5) recommendations, other departmental policies and procedures (e.g., *Department Operations Manual*), and comply with the *American Association of Museums*, *Society of Vertebrate Paleontology,* and other professional, legal, and ethical standards.

GUIDELINE – Collections 1b: Collections-based research should be supported and encouraged.

GUIDELINE – Collections 1c: The return of specimens and museum objects collected from ABDSP lands that are held by other State offices, institutions, and agencies should be sought.

GOAL – Collections 2: Conservation and curatorial practices for museum specimens will be maintained at the highest national museum community standards such that the scientific and educational values of the collections are not compromised.

GUIDELINE – Collections 2a: Collections facilities will be maintained at the highest possible California State Parks *Museum Collections Facility Index* standards. California State Parks' *Museum Collections Management Handbook* (2002) and *CRM Handbook* (2001) guidelines for practices and procedures will be followed.

GUIDELINE – Collections 2b: All data associated with natural and cultural museum objects will be compiled, verified, archived, and made accessible to qualified, responsible users.

3.3.1.7 Visitor-Use and Opportunities (Recreation)

The Park serves as an educational and recreational resource with international and national significance. In particular, the large population in Southern California and San Diego County considers the park a premier yet easily reached recreational resource. The public enjoys many different forms of recreational activities at ABDSP. These activities provide renewal, pleasure, relaxation, and adventure. For some it means exposure to the challenges of a rugged wilderness environment, for others it is simply the passive enjoyment of natural scenery or contact with nature. People use recreational opportunities to gather socially, and for others, to seek solitude. ABDSP fulfills the public need for a place to recreate in all of these many ways. The types of visitor uses at ABDSP are different from many other state parks because of its large size, and diverse environments. Many forms of recreation take advantage of the Park's vast open spaces and wilderness qualities. For those with physical disabilities, the park's remote reaches should be made *readily* accessible through displays, films, and trails at the visitor center, or access on roads adjacent to the wilderness areas.

Some, recreational activities may have negative effects on sensitive desert resources. For example, fragile desert flowers are at risk of trampling (loved to death) from the crowds that

come to see them. Specific management tools are necessary to guide adverse visitor impacts around the areas needing extra levels of protection. Potential future increases in park visitors could multiply these negative effects. In addition, some recreational activities may interfere or conflict with one another and these conflicts may diminish the quality of the visitor's experience. An overriding goal of the General Plan is to provide opportunity for visitors of all ability levels to experience the wide variety of settings and resources that the Park has to offer without losing those same protected resources that attract visitors in the first place.

Carrying Capacity

Park agencies, such as the U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service, have long recognized that the management of visitor use requires data-based processes that respond to changing conditions. Carrying capacity is a dynamic process that adjusts and readjusts to changing conditions. Properly done, carrying capacity is not a static culmination of a focused,

one-time, scientific research. The proper management of public use for the sake of resource protection and quality visitor experience must be dynamic, responding to changes in resource conditions and visitor demands for recreational opportunities. This process is accomplished through *ALL* of the following planning steps:

> ***Data Collection*:** The foundation for establishing a carrying capacity must be a current understanding of existing conditions and uses. A system of regular data collection (such as visitor experience surveys and resource inventory) must be in place. An extensive resource inventory and assessment of visitor experience (see Appendix 5.4 "ABDSP Visitor Survey") was done prior to preparation of this General Plan.
>
> ***Park Purpose:*** This General Plan revisits the purpose of ABDSP (see "Declaration of Purpose" §3.2).
>
> ***Desired Future Conditions:*** Through the Spirit of Place (page 1-4) and the Goals and Guidelines of this Plan Section, this General Plan identifies the desired future conditions of the Park's natural and cultural resources and the visitors' experience. These conditions set a "target" for evaluating future decisions regarding the optimal numbers of visitors.
>
> ***Project Implementation:*** As visitor-use projects are conceived, a multi-disciplinary team of cultural, natural, and park planning specialists will prepare management plans that evaluate the desired future conditions set forth in this General Plan and will establish the appropriate number of visitors to an area. Visitation may be managed through facility design and/or size, seasonal openings/closings, or other operational management tools.
>
> ***Monitoring the Conditions:*** The condition of both natural and cultural resources as well as visitor experience is regularly monitored. Should the desired future conditions noted in this General Plan be compromised, existing improvements (and management plans) will be revised accordingly.
>
> **GOAL – Carrying Capacity 1:** Invest the staff time and utilize partnerships and volunteers to ensure full implementation of California State Parks' Inventory,

Monitoring, and Assessment Program (IMAP). This program accomplishes both the data collection and monitoring components, which are the foundations of establishing the optimal carrying capacities of the Park. For ABDSP, the IMAP will also include a periodic reassessment of visitor experience using the "ABDSP Visitor Survey" (Appendix 9.4) as a template.

GUIDELINE – Carrying Capacity 1a: Assess current and potential visitor use, level of satisfaction, and activities through the increased use of suggestion boxes throughout the Park.

Recreation

At one of the earliest general plan public meetings, the 200 participants demonstrated a sharp contrast in the way they used the Park. About half the audience was comprised of passionate four-wheel drive enthusiasts, while others were deeply concerned about the use, and impacts, of four-wheel-drive vehicles in the Park. At the end of the meeting, the facilitator asked all the participants to share one-word reasons why they love ABDSP. In spite of their sharp differences in *how* they enjoyed the Park, each groups' answers as to *why* they were drawn to the Park were indistinguishable from one another. Generally, the same things that attract a backpacker to ABDSP also attract a person touring in a four-wheel-drive vehicle: the solitude, panoramas, sense of discovery, night-sky, and wildness of the desert. Here, *Recreation* and *Preservation* are not on opposite ends of the scale. At ABDSP, *Preservation* is an integral part of a successful recreation program. (Likewise, as visitors experience outstanding recreation in the desert environment, they become stakeholders and advocates to ensure preservation of that environment.)

GOAL – Recreation 1: Maintain the Park's qualities of solitude and wildness. Management decisions will favor the desert environment, promote the health and well being of desert ecosystems, and promote those activities that are sustainable over time in providing for the health, inspiration, and education of Californians.

GUIDELINE – Recreation 1a: Recognize that the aesthetic improvements that come with all natural resource restoration efforts, especially exotic plant removal and the removal/restoration of indiscriminant roads, contribute to a higher quality experience for all visitors.

GUIDELINE – Recreation 1b: Continue to work with appropriate agencies to minimize the negative effects of aerial fly-overs, traffic noise, and other impediments to visitor solitude.

GOAL – Recreation 2: Provide for a wide variety and expansion of high quality recreational opportunities while ensuring the protection of park resources.

GUIDELINE – Recreation 2a: Assess current and potential recreational activities for compatibility with State Park, Wilderness, Cultural Preserve, and other land designations, as well as the activity's appropriateness relative to the Department's Mission and to both the resource and social carrying capacity. If necessary, carrying capacity for given locations may be established and visitation limited to seasonal access or by lottery. Some areas may require closure to certain types of activities.

GUIDELINE – Recreation 2b: Work closely with recreational and disabled access advisory groups to ensure that their specific needs are addressed and incorporated into management decisions, where feasible and appropriate. Aggressively pursue funding to implement new recreation facilities that will meet public needs, and are consistent with the management zones delineated herein.

GUIDELINE – Recreation 2c: Minimize user conflicts. Facilitate discussions among competing user groups. As appropriate, consider management measures including, but not limited to special designations of routes or areas for specific user groups.

GUIDELINE – Recreation 2d: Ensure that appropriate recreational opportunities and reasonable accommodation are available for people of all abilities, including seniors, children, and people with disabilities.

GUIDELINE – Recreation 2e: Identify the level and type of staff and visitor interaction appropriate for enhancing the visitor experience.

GUIDELINE – Recreation 2f: Park Management may designate hang glider landing areas, only within areas identified in the General Plan as FUZ I or II or within one vehicle width of an existing road in the Backcountry Zone.

GUIDELINE – Recreation 2g: Assess primitive camping locations and other areas of active recreation for evidence of archeological sites. Evaluate the condition of the sites and make recommendations for their protection. Protection measures can include the following:

- closing areas to camping
- restriction of vehicular use
- moving the alignment of trails and roads
- re-vegetation of areas degraded by recreational activities
- creation of new cultural preserves and other measures

GOAL – Recreation 3: Recognize historic uses and cultural heritage by identifying appropriate recreational/celebratory activities.

GUIDELINE – Recreation 3a: Incorporate a broad range of ethnic and cultural perspectives in the management of recreational opportunities in the Park. Focus on the major ethnic and cultural groups of California and especially those in close proximity to the Park.

GOAL – Recreation 4: California State Parks shall recognize that many recreational activities associated with nature provide values that are often intangible or hard to define. California State Parks will strive to incorporate these "deeper" values into its management decisions.

GUIDELINE – Recreation 4a: Preserve the qualities and opportunities of ABDSP that make this place so important for maintaining and rejuvenating the human spirit.

Safety

ABDSP is located in an environment that is full of potential dangers to visitors. These potential hazards include heat, cold, flash floods, rocky cliffs, slot canyons, seismic activity, landslides, poisonous snakes, and cacti. These and other hazards are exacerbated by the reality that most of the Park is remote and isolated. The key element to promote visitor safety is the implementation of an effective education program (see Interpretation Goals and Guidelines)

GOAL – Safety 1: Promote Visitor Safety, while recognizing that the desert's climate, geology, wildlife, and vegetation are inherently hazardous. Measures to promote visitor safety will be taken while considering the importance of maintaining the visitor's experiences of adventure, discovery, and wilderness.

GUIDELINE – Safety 1a: Continually evaluate, expand, and adapt the visitor safety program to increase safety throughout the Park.

GUIDELINE – Safety 1b: Do not promote visitation to old mines or the mud caves. Avoid advertising their location in park literature and discourage private publications from doing the same. General safety warnings should be provided regarding the inherent dangers of mines and caves, without revealing their location.

GUIDELINE – Safety 1c: California State Parks will evaluate visitor and environmental hazards and, where appropriate, develop mitigation measures to ensure for public safety.

3.3.1.8 Leadership

Leadership is an important, recognized value inherent in fulfilling California State Parks' mission. Leadership embraces vision, creativity, boldness, and teamwork, as well as the development of productive partnerships, mentoring relationships, and providing inspiration, expertise, and assistance to internal and external customers.

GOAL – Leadership 1: Act as a leader among agencies and groups that are active in providing recreation and preservation by nurturing partnerships and advocacy of the Park's mission.

GUIDELINE – Leadership 1a: Delight Park visitors with the service they receive from employees and volunteers.

GUIDELINE – Leadership 1b: Sustain an environment that encourages health, creativity, honesty, and positive exchange of ideas between Park employees, volunteers, partners, and visitors.

GUIDELINE – Leadership 1c: Maintain an organization of continuous improvement.

GUIDELINE – Leadership 1d: Maintain an environmentally responsible organization.

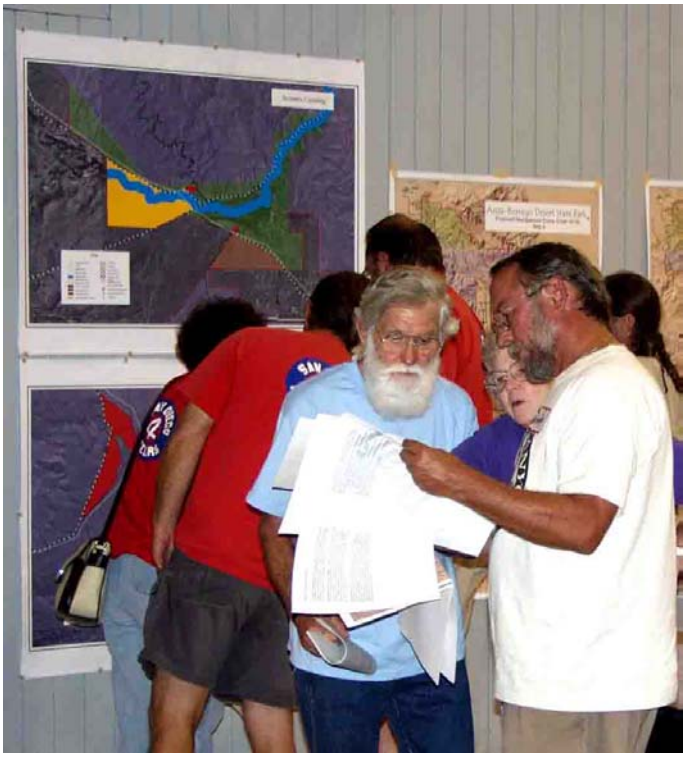
GUIDELINE – Leadership 1e: Lead efforts to develop a sustainable relationship between human culture and wild nature.

GUIDELINE – Leadership 1f: Provide leadership and coordination with agencies regarding both park operations and long-term vision. These agencies include the Desert Managers Group (Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, National Park Service, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Homeland Security), resource agencies such as the US Fish & Wildlife Service, the California Department of Fish and Game, and trustee agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service and Caltrans.

3.3.1.9 Community Involvement and Marketing

State Parks are integral members of their communities, sharing responsibilities for local and regional issues that include youth development, economic health, and planning.

The community must be included as a part of the decision making process, and must stay connected with the Park.



GOAL – Community 1: All potential appropriate user groups, especially non-traditional groups, will be encouraged to visit the Park. California State Parks will promote a variety of public outreach programs and

marketing strategies that inform potential users of the Park

GUIDELINE – Community 1a: Ensure that programs and strategies provide for enriching visitor experiences while increasing protection of the Park's resources

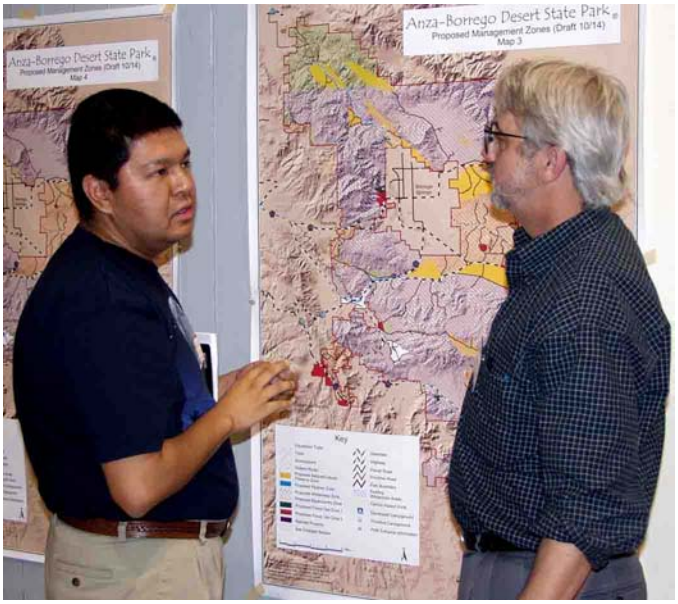
GUIDELINE – Community 1b: Promote interaction between the Park, local communities, and non-park lands

GOAL – Community 2: ABDSP shall develop its international reputation for outstanding resources and opportunities for conservation, recreation, education, and research. California State Parks shall strive to be successful in drawing visitors to ABDSP without compromising these resources and opportunities.

GUIDELINE – Community 2a: Regulate filming activities to allow the industry to benefit from the Park's unique setting, while ensuring that these activities do not have a negative effect on resources and recreational opportunities. Utilize these as opportunities to inform the general public about the Park (including film credit and special film featurettes on movie locales).

GUIDELINE – Community 2b: Utilize educational outreach programs (see Interpretation Goals and Guidelines) to also inform the public about the Park. (Such actions may include publication of research summaries in popular magazines.)

GUIDELINE – Community 2c: Identify and promote the Park's singular identity.



GOAL – Community 3: Nurture and expand partnerships to increase resource protection and opportunities for enriching park experiences.

GUIDELINE – Community 3a: Encourage and develop volunteer groups and work programs that are consistent with park needs and values.

GUIDELINE – Community 3b: Work with surrounding business ventures, communities, and land managing agencies to encourage tourism and provide for a diverse range of experiences. Recognize and build on a mutually supportive relationship between the Park and the community of Borrego Springs.

GOAL – Community 4: Develop programs that provide financial support that ensure the protection of the Park's resources throughout periods of low government funding.

GOAL – Community 5: Manage staff and resources to effectively deal with the Park's highly cyclical visitation. Promote visitation during less crowded periods.

GOAL – Community 6: Develop a marketing strategy based on the Park's unique resources and opportunities for recreation, education, and research.

GUIDELINE – Community 6a: Guideline Com-4: Create a grant writing program with the assistance of local environmental and non-profit groups.

GOAL – Community 7: Manage staff and resources to effectively deal with the Park's highly cyclical visitation. Promote visitation during less crowded periods.

GUIDELINE– Community 7a: Provide off-peak incentives to park visitors.

GOAL – Community 8: Develop a marketing strategy based on the Park's unique resources and opportunities for recreation, education, and research.

GUIDELINE – Community 8a: Update ABDSP brochure and web-site information to provide more detailed information on the Park's resources and recreation, education and research opportunities.

3.3.1.10 Real Property Additions and Management

California State Parks has responsibility for the protection, preservation, and management of all real property (land) owned by California State Parks. (Re: acquisition, see PRC 5016–5016.1).

GOAL – Property 1: Acquire land from willing sellers that will enhance the visitor experience and/or the integrity and preservation of natural and cultural resources.

GUIDELINE – Property 1a: California State Parks will consider the following types of land acquisitions, should they become available:

- Land that completes landscape linkages and additional habitat connectivity (especially as outlined in "Planning Influences: Landscape Linkages"). Complete watersheds and regions supporting significant natural processes. Sustainable sizes and configurations of under-protected major habitat types of California. Significant natural resources (i.e., wetland and riparian habitats, designated Critical Habitats, significant plant or wildlife populations, ecological systems).
- Cultural sites and cultural landscapes.
- Parcels appropriate for staff and visitor uses (e.g., existing facilities, previously disturbed sites, locations allowing for improved staff and visitor access, etc.).

- Minimize negative adjacent land use effects (e.g., light pollution, noise, protection of viewsheds and sense of solitude, protection of regional aquifer, significant poaching and trespassing).
- Eliminate adjacent land use that conflicts with park purposes. Eliminate inholdings to ensure more effective land management.

GUIDELINE – Property 1b: Continue to encourage cooperative work with volunteer groups that strive to achieve this land acquisition.

GUIDELINE – Property 1c: California State Parks should have a Land Acquisition Plan for ABDSP.

GUIDELINE – Property 1d: Evaluate and act on strategies to obtain federal and private mineral rights and mineral claims/leases.

GUIDELINE – Property 1e: Identify scenic, natural, paleontological, and cultural landscapes that cross park boundaries, and work to decrease destruction and fragmentation of those landscapes through purchase of appropriate land or work, preservation, and cooperative agreements.

GUIDELINE – Property 1f: Identify critical Bighorn Sheep habitat for acquisition.

GOAL – Property 2: Monitor and reduce impacts to park resources and visitor experience due to adjacent land uses.

GUIDELINE – Property 2a: Work to minimize or contain negative effects from lands adjacent to the Park, such as: encroaching developments, the planting and invasion of exotic species, feral or domestic animals, watershed pollution, water pumping, etc.

GUIDELINE – Property 2b: Investigate and promote methods for reducing illegal immigration and Federal Immigration agent activity as they relate to negative impacts on sensitive resources.

3.3.1.11 Infrastructure and Operations

The infrastructure is the underlying "foundation" (including basic installations and facilities), on which the health, safety, and comfort of park visitors depends. This infrastructure can enhance the visitor's enjoyment of the Park by providing a basic level of information, service, and/or comfort.

GOAL – Operations 1: Strive toward "world-class" facilities that represent the integrity of ABDSP. Design and maintenance of park facilities should embody the same vigor and spirit that California State Parks applies to its *Mission* while evoking forward-thinking design theories and producing meaningful places and spaces worthy of preservation by future generations and accessible to all.

GUIDELINE – Operations 1a: Provide facilities that are clean and in good repair and meet state of the art ADA guidelines.

GUIDELINE – Operations 1b: Maintain facilities in a manner that minimizes impacts on park resources while sustaining the quality of the facilities.

GUIDELINE – Operations 1c: Provide visitor-use facilities (campgrounds, visitor centers, etc.) that offer the opportunity for diverse visitor experiences and reasonable accommodation. Facilities will be geographically placed to maximize visitor and staff use while minimizing negative effects on viewshed, opportunities for solitude, or natural and cultural resources.

GUIDELINE – Operations 1d: Design should evolve from a collaborative and visual process that is led by a design professional, and involves the users, the District staff, resource professionals, and other stakeholders including Disabled Advisory Access Groups.

GUIDELINE – Operations 1e: Design decisions should be sensitive to the contextual nature of the site, including the region's cultural and natural environment. The design should recognize and respect the past, but not necessarily mimic a style or era. Design may also seek to have an appearance consistent with regional cultural, historical, geological, or biological themes.

GUIDELINE – Operations 1f: Design dialogues should extend throughout California State Parks and beyond, to ensure that the meaningful places and spaces are designed and maintained in a manner that keeps with the richness and grandeur of the State Park System.

GUIDELINE – Operations 1g: Promote and incorporate the use of sustainable, "green" design for park buildings and facilities. Universal accessibility, new technology and materials, innovative strategies for visitor-use areas, and more efficient equipment will be embraced.

GOAL – Operations 2: Identify facility deficiencies that compromise the visitor's experience, as well as natural and cultural resources. Develop new facilities or proper facility management strategies and programs that improve visitor experience and resource integrity and meet ADA guidelines.

GUIDELINE – Operations 2a: Maintain natural resource values through implementing aggressive natural resource maintenance, and restore natural resource values through comprehensive project-based stewardship efforts.

GUIDELINE – Operations 2b: Develop new visitor-use facilities to accommodate changing visitor uses and accessibility needs, population demographics, and increases in visitation

GUIDELINE – Operations 2c: Work to improve modes of communication for ranger staff. Seek equipment and methods that aid staff emergency-response abilities within the Park.

GUIDELINE – Operations 2d: Develop additional staff housing and other operational support facilities that aid in staff efficiency and effectiveness within the Park setting as needed.

GUIDELINE – Operations 2e: Develop innovative strategies to deal with the facility needs for extreme seasonal fluxes in visitation.

GOAL – Operations 3: Provide trails and roads that offer the opportunity for diverse visitor experiences while not compromising the integrity of park resources.

GUIDELINE – Operations 3a: Develop a comprehensive Roads Management Plan, and Trails Management Plan (to include issues such as maintenance, volunteer efforts, resource impacts, clearly defined regulations, etc.) The following criteria will be evaluated and addressed within these plans (also see "Future Planning Efforts"):

- Maintain roads and trails to the degree appropriate for the intended use, and in such a manner that they are clearly delineated to the user while not detracting from the visual aesthetics of the area in which they are located
- Roads and trails, or portions of roads and trails, may be closed or rerouted as a result of the findings of the Roads, and Trails Management Plans, or when resources are being damaged or compromised

GUIDELINE – Operations 3b: Survey trail designation and visitor experience to ensure that conflicts between user groups are kept to a minimum.

GUIDELINE – Operations 3c: Roads and trails will exist in such a way that they enable the visitors to experience the diversity of the Park, while minimizing negative effects on the resources.

Hazards

Geological events such as landslides and large magnitude earthquakes are significant hazards within ABDSP, and seismic hazards and fault rupture zones preclude development of human-occupied facilities. Potential locations and periodic occurrence of geological hazards should be considered in management and planning processes for visitor-use and facilities. The majority of the soils throughout ABDSP consist of various grain sizes of sand and sandy loam. These soils are highly erosive, especially when located within a major watercourse or subject to flash flooding. Management plans and decisions with respect to facilities placement and visitor access must recognize and avoid or mitigate these potential hazards.

GOAL – Hazards 1: Ensure that all facilities provide a safe environment for visitors.

GUIDELINE – Hazards 1a: Recognize the potential for major flash flood events and ensure that park facilities are sited to avoid flash flood damage.

GUIDELINE – Hazards 1b: Identify surface traces of active faults and potential areas of liquefaction or landslides due to seismic activity in relation to potential development intended for human occupancy. Ensure that human-occupied developments are sited at safe distances from these hazards.

GUIDELINE – Hazards 1c: Complete a site-specific geological investigation for all major facility developments. Include an evaluation of the soil properties to verify that the site is appropriate for development. Some of the concerns associated with soils and development include bearing capacity, potential for erosion, and corrosive properties.

Staffing

ABDSP includes nearly half of the land base of the State Park System. It also contains some of the most significant resource values and provides some of the most popular natural, cultural, and wilderness experiences in the California Desert. As of 2002, the area patrolled by a single ranger at ABDSP averaged nearly 100,000 acres. As a result, visitors rarely have contact with rangers and resource problems can go undetected for some time. The General Plan recommends a more pro-active approach to provide information to visitors and receive information from them about needs at various park locations. The resulting increase in visitor interaction will help visitors enjoy their park experience more, enhance educational efforts, address safety concerns, and improve the integrity of the Park's natural and cultural resources. Furthermore, the seasonal component of visitation to ABDSP creates a strain on staff and duty requirements.

GOAL – Staffing 1: Increase field staff.

GUIDELINE – Staffing 1a: Strive to acquire increased staffing to more effectively operate the Park. Consider options that involve park volunteer organizations.

GUIDELINE – Staffing 1b: Provide for a sufficient and proper staffing balance among the Park's land management, facility maintenance, and visitor services staff.

GUIDELINE – Staffing 1c: Provide staff housing and facilities throughout the Park, as consistent with the management zones.

GUIDELINE – Staffing 1d: Develop innovative strategies to deal with staffing needs associated with the seasonal flux in visitation.

3.3.2 AREA-SPECIFIC GOALS AND GUIDELINES

This section defines the management goals and guidelines that are more specific to individual areas in ABDSP and will clarify the application of broader park-wide goals and guidelines. In most cases, the specific areas below have multiple, codependent issues that require comprehensive management action.

3.3.2.1 Blair Valley and Little Blair Valley

Blair Valley and Little Blair Valley are located immediately southeast of County Highway S2 approximately 6 miles south of Scissors Crossing (intersection of Highway 78 and County Highway S2) (see Figure 6.1 "Facilities"). Blair Valley contains both the Focused-Use Zone II and Backcountry Zone (see Figure 6.6 "Management Zones Preferred Alternative"). Portions of Blair Valley are designated as Focused-Use Zone II in order to provide for and manage these popular camping areas. (See Figure 6.10 "Preferred Alternative Close-up.")

Blair Valley and Little Blair valley contain significant desert ephemeral playas (lakes). These playas are extremely sensitive to disturbance. The surface soils are easily compacted by foot and vehicular traffic. These playas are home to the cysts of aquatic invertebrates (branchiopods) and the Borrego Valley peppergrass, which depend on this habitat for their existence. Both of these species can be impacted by foot traffic associated with nearby camping areas in the valley.

Other significant resources that are notable to Blair Valley and Little Blair Valley are the quality stargazing opportunities in Little Blair Valley, and the archaeology interpreted at the Morteros trail, Pictographs trail, and Marshal South home. Other issues affecting the area are its large and popular group camps, and the negative effect that this camping has on native vegetation and other resources.

GOAL – Blair Valley 1: Management efforts will protect the unique qualities and resources of Blair Valley and Little Blair Valley while supporting compatible visitor uses.

GUIDELINE – Blair Valley 1a: Ensure that FUZ II and associated visitor uses are regulated to minimize impacts to adjacent sensitive resources (i.e. dry lake, archaeological resources, night sky).

GUIDELINE – Blair Valley 1b: Maintain use of the Focused-Use Zone II area in Blair Valley as a location for group camps and activities in order to minimize impacts to adjacent sensitive resources.

GUIDELINE – Blair Valley 1c: Monitor the condition of the Marshal South Home, the Morteros Site, the Pictographs Site, and other cultural resources on a regular basis to assure that visitation is not appreciably degrading them and their inherent cultural values.

3.3.2.2 Carrizo Impact Area

The Carrizo Impact Area is located in the southeasterly portion of the Park between Fish Creek and the Coyote Mountains. This area includes approximately 27,000 acres in the Carrizo Badlands and was used between 1942 and 1959 as an aerial bombing range by the U.S. Army and Navy. Because of the potential danger of uncovering unexploded ordnances, the public is denied access to one of the Park's most scenic areas. Besides scenic beauty, the Carrizo Impact Area contains portions of the historic Fages, Sonoran, Jackass Mail, Southern Emigrant, and Overland Stage Trails.

GOAL – Carrizo 1: Support efforts to make the Carrizo Impact Area safe and preserve the scenic beauty of this area as well as the historical integrity of the wartime landscape as is safe for park staff and visitors.

GUIDELINE – Carrizo 1a: The presence of unexploded ordnance above and below ground in the Carrizo Impact Area presents a mortal danger to all persons that may come in contact with it. Increase public visitor awareness of the former military range and California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 14 Division 3 Chapter 6 §14604.

3.3.2.3 Coyote Canyon

Coyote Canyon is one of the most important resource areas within the Park. Located in the northwest corner of the Park, the canyon is crossed by the Riverside/San Diego county border. This area contains highly significant archaeological sites and trail corridors from the historic Fages and Anza expeditions. The route of the Anza Expedition has been designated as the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail. The canyon provides valuable scenic vistas and opportunities for solitude. Located within Coyote Canyon is sensitive wetland and riparian habitat that supports the federally endangered Peninsular Bighorn Sheep and also the state and federally endangered Least Bell's Vireo. A portion of this habitat is federally designated Critical Habitat for the Least Bell Vireo and protected by the Endangered Species Act. The entire canyon is federally recognized 'Critical Habitat' for the Peninsular Bighorn Sheep.

With the exception of several miles of park roads, much of Coyote Canyon is designated State Wilderness. A 3.1-mile section of the canyon from Middle Willows to Upper Willows remains closed to vehicle use in order to protect these sensitive resources. Existing wilderness designations in Coyote Canyon effectively preclude the opportunity for relocation of the park road without a change in sub-unit classification, which must be approved by the State Parks and Recreation Commission. A portion of the 3.1-mile section closed to vehicles is adjacent to existing State Wilderness and the General Plan proposes additional State Wilderness to border the road throughout the majority of Coyote Canyon (See Figure 6.6).

The Coyote Canyon Public Use Plan was approved in 1995 and addresses a number of specific management actions with regard to recreation and resource protection. These include:

1. allowance of motorized vehicle access from Lower Willows to Middle Willows
2. allowance, on a trial basis, of motorized vehicle access from the northern park boundary to Upper Willows
3. closure of a 3.1 mile stretch of Coyote Canyon between Upper and Middle Willows to motorized vehicles
4. a 30-day extension of the summer canyon-wide closure, for all users, to June 1 through September 30

5. continued allowance of camping in the canyon, but excluding camping in the three main oases

6. continued allowance of the use of the canyon bottom trail for hikers, equestrians and mountain bikers through Middle and Upper Willows, with minor adjustments to avoid sensitive resources

7. increased effort to reduce or eliminate low-level aircraft flights

8. control of major exotic flora and fauna

9. increased natural and cultural resource inventory and monitoring.

The objectives of this plan were to improve resource protection and recreational quality. In 2002, the University of California evaluated the Coyote Canyon Public Use Plan and found: "Scientific literature and monitoring data support the conclusion that management actions specified by the Coyote Canyon Public Use Plan, particularly the road closure and cowbird and tamarisk control, were beneficial" (Ostermann and Boyce 2002). The non-native herd of feral horses was completely removed from the canyon in March 2003 in response to poor herd health during the worst drought ever recorded in San Diego County history.

Dudek and Associates (1999) assessed the potential to develop alternative routes for the 3.1-mile road closure and found significant obstacles to the potential road realignment. Factors influencing the infeasibility of the routes included high cost, conflicts with the State Wilderness designation, and required consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the effect to endangered Peninsular Bighorn Sheep. In the *Recovery Plan for the Bighorn Sheep in the Peninsular Ranges, California* (2000) the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service identifies the Coyote Canyon area in a designation of 'Critical Habitat' (pg 63). They address the factors that affect the continued existence of this species, including human disturbance and non-native plants (pg 43-45), and specifically state that the "recovery of the species hinges greatly on the successful management of bighorn sheep habitat in this State Park" (pg 52).

GOAL – CC 1: Preserve, protect, and interpret the integrity of the cultural resources, canyon ecosystem, and wilderness experience within Coyote Canyon while providing for recreational use that is supportive of these values.

GUIDELINE – CC 1a: Culturally sensitive areas of Coyote Canyon will be considered for designation as a Cultural Preserve. An area-specific plan should be developed for Coyote Canyon that identifies the boundaries of the preserve and defines management goals and guidelines specific to the preserve. The plan will include measures for inventorying the preserve and monitoring the condition of archaeological sites and landscape features in the preserve. Cahuilla and Cupeño elders should be consulted about past uses of the land and their opinions for future management.

GUIDELINE – CC 1b: Support and provide for interpretive opportunities that explain the importance of riparian systems in relation to the Park's biotic

communities, and that this area served as a corridor for the movement of people throughout time.

GUIDELINE – CC 1C: Continue to manage Coyote Canyon as outlined in the *Coyote Canyon Public Use Plan* (1995), and as assessed in *Ecological Conditions in Coyote Canyon, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park® An Assessment of the Coyote Canyon Public Use Plan* (2002). Continue the protection of this canyon's vital ecosystem with the four-month seasonal closure to all visitors and the permanent closure to vehicles from the region between Middle Willows and Upper Willows.

3.3.2.4 Lucky 5 Ranch Area

The Lucky 5 Ranch Area is located in a southwestern appendage of the Park, straddling County Highway S1 adjacent to Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. In 2001, California State Parks acquired the area, mainly for the purposes of protecting the habitat linkage with Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, preserving regionally significant montane vernal pool habitat, and for its recreational values and historic resources. A portion of this area is designated as FUZ II. The feasibility of placing an equestrian staging area and campground is currently being investigated.

GOAL – Lucky 5 1: Preserve and protect the functioning ecology of the montane habitats of the Lucky 5 Ranch area, in particular, the sensitive montane vernal pool habitat of Cuyamaca Lake.

GOAL – Lucky 5 2: Although this area is designated Backcountry and FUZ II, limit potential overnight use to avoid sensitive resource areas. Development overall shall be kept to a minimum except to provide a campground and trail access.

3.3.2.5 Sentenac Canyon

The Sentenac Canyon area is located near Scissors Crossing (intersection of State Highway 78 and County Highway S2). The area contains a diverse number of resources that include wetland habitat, historic trails and sites, archaeological sites, as well as transportation routes and areas suitable for minimal public facilities, primitive camping, and access to the Pacific Crest Trail. The area incorporates four different management zone designations (Focused-Use Zone II, Cultural Preserve Zone, Wilderness Zone, and Backcountry Zone). (See Figure 6.10 "Preferred Alternative Close-up")

GOAL – Sentenac 1: Support efforts to protect and interpret the historical, archaeological, natural, and scenic resources of this unique area of the Park while providing for minimal public facilities and trail access.

GUIDELINE – Sentenac 1a: The purpose of the FUZ II designation in this area is meant to provide a staging area for the Pacific Crest Trail and other closely associated park opportunities. These facilities will be limited to

interpretive/information kiosks, drinking water, hitching posts, portable toilets, and other facilities to support minimal activities.

3.3.2.6 Indian Canyon

Indian Canyon, accessed via County Highway S2, is located in the south end of the Park. Indian Canyon contains a variety of important cultural and natural resources, including significant prehistoric archaeological sites, palm groves, washes, and terraces with microphyll woodlands, and extensive wildflower locations. These resources are vulnerable to appreciable degradation from unrestricted visitor uses, such as open camping. This area currently lies within Wilderness.

GOAL – IC 1: Encourage efforts to protect and interpret the sensitive and fragile resources within Indian Canyon, while continuing to facilitate high-quality recreation.

GUIDELINE – IC 1a: Evaluate the feasibility of creating designated camping areas within Indian Canyon that will protect archaeological sites, wildflower areas, and other sensitive habitat locations.

GUIDELINE – IC 1b: Redirect camping away from the palm grove at the end of South Fork to protect the desert riparian zone and wildlife habitat. Measures to move camping away from the palm grove should include barricades and signage to interpret the resource protection efforts.

3.3.2.7 Grapevine Canyon

Grapevine Canyon lies in the central portion of ABDSP. A diversity of resources occur here, including, riparian areas and important prehistoric archaeological sites.

GOAL – GC 1: Encourage efforts to protect and document the sensitive and fragile resources in Grapevine Canyon.

GUIDELINE – GC 1a: Evaluate the feasibility of creating designated camping areas within Grapevine Canyon that will protect archaeological sites, fragile vegetation communities, and wildlife habitat.

GUIDELINE – GC 1B: Investigate potential vehicular routes of travel within the canyon that will avoid sensitive resources while providing access for visitors and utility companies.

3.3.2.8 Vallecito/Campbell Ranch

The Vallecito/Campbell Ranch is a 3,349-acre parcel in the west-central portion of the Park along County Highway S 2 and at the base of Campbell Grade. Vallecito County Park, containing the historic Vallecito Stage Station Site, adjoins the northeastern end of the parcel. The early 2004 acquisition of this parcel aims to protect the extensive desert wetlands here, which can make this area a viable wildlife habitat as well as a critical wildlife corridor. The

Vallecito Ranch parcel will become an important water source for the endangered bighorn sheep. Vallecito Creek hosts rare and endangered animal species, including the Least Bell's Vireo. An important prehistoric Indian trail passes through the parcel, up Storm Canyon, and eventually into the mountains; was used by latter-day cattle ranchers. This historic Southern Emigrant Trail and Butterfield Stage Route traverse several miles of the property. Several prehistoric and historic-period archaeological sites have been documented here, including prehistoric occupation sites, a gathering area, food-processing areas, an early 20th Century sod house, an 19th Century homestead site, and many vestiges of 20th Century cattle ranching.

The area contains a diverse number of resources that include wetland habitat, habitat connectivity, archaeological and historical sites, trails, and roads. The area provides opportunities for all types of camping, hiking, interpretation, as well as existing structures suitable for staff and/or visitor uses. The area incorporates three different management zone designations: Focused-Use Zones I and II, and Backcountry Zone. (See Figure 6.13 "Preferred Alternative Close-up")

GOAL – V/CR 1: Support efforts to protect and interpret the historical, archaeological, natural, and scenic resources of this unique area of the Park while providing for diverse visitor uses and trail access.

GUIDELINE – V/CR 1a: The purpose of the FUZ II designation in this area is meant to only provide a staging area for nearby trail systems and other closely associated park opportunities. These facilities will be limited to interpretive/information kiosks, drinking water, hitching posts, portable toilets, and other facilities to support minimal activities.

GOAL – V/CR 2: Support efforts to document and protect the significant and sensitive cultural resources within Vallecito Ranch

GUIDELINE – V/CR 2a: Conduct archaeological site surveys within the parcel prior to establishing park facilities, such as day-use parking areas, trails, primitive camping locations, and others. Make and implement recommendations on site protection, based upon the results of those surveys.

GUIDELINE – V/CR 2b Conduct historical research on the historic and ethnographic trails within the parcel to better ascertain their significance and to assist in creating better-informed interpretation. Identify appropriate public uses for the historic routes.

GUIDELINE – V/CR 1c Consult with local Native American representatives to learn about prehistoric and early historic uses of the Vallecito Ranch parcel to better represent their perspective on land-use within this parcel.

GUIDELINE – V/CR 1b: Investigate the possibility of assigning an archaeological site steward to the Vallecito Ranch, who would periodically visit and update the conditions of archaeological sites.

GUIDELINE – V/CR 1c: Conduct oral history interviews with individuals knowledgeable on the ranching history of Vallecito Ranch.

GOAL – V/CR 3: Document and identify restoration needs at historic buildings, structures, and landscape features on Vallecito Ranch.

GUIDELINE – V/CR 3a: Research, inventory, and determine the eligibility and extent of any unique and potentially significant historic buildings and cultural landscape features (i.e. adobe and sod buildings, fence lines, water troughs, etc.) on the property.

GUIDELINE – V/CR 3b: Assess and consider treatments such as preservation and/or restoration of significant, late 19th or early 20th Century homestead or ranch complexes, sites, or features (i.e. Olin Bailey Homestead or Campbell Ranch), and interpret their history to the public along with associated landscape features, and interpret their history to the public.

GOAL – V/CR 4: Consult with adjoining landowners about their concerns. Facilitate mutual land-management- and interpretive goals.

GUIDELINE – V/CR 4a: Seek the opinions of BLM and San Diego County Parks staff during the planning for new facilities within Vallecito Ranch. There are sensitive cultural and natural resources on their lands that lie contiguous to the Vallecito Ranch parcel.

GUIDELINE – V/CR 4b: Investigate the feasibility of producing joint interpretation programs or conducting joint trail construction projects with BLM and San Diego County Parks.

GOAL – V/CR 5: Protect and restore the significant natural resources in this region, with particular attention to sensitive species and habitats, as well as biological connectivity.

GUIDELINE – V/CR 5a: Restore the wetland habitat at the top of Campbell Grade with primary intention focused on: the return of bighorn sheep to this significant water source, increased high quality habitat for Least Bell's Vireo and other nesting and migratory bird species, and increased native plant diversity.

GUIDELINE – V/CR 5b: Restore wetland habitat in the Vallecito Ciénaga, especially regions that were previously used for agriculture and livestock. Ensure that a major focus of this restoration includes: the expansion and protection of Least Bell's Vireo habitat and population, increased high quality habitat for nesting and migratory birds, increased native plant diversity.

GUIDELINE – V/CR 5c: Restore the biological connectivity of this land to the surrounding ecosystem. Focus on the value of this region as a significant link between the Vallecito and Tierra Blanca ranges, and a transition

between the montane and the desert floor habitats. Protect and restore connectivity of the Vallecito wetland areas with the greater San Felipe and Carrizo drainages.

3.4 FUTURE PLANNING EFFORTS

There is a number of planning efforts that require detailed attention too specific for the overall planning efforts of this General Plan. Funding and staffing limitations restrict what studies California State Parks is able to immediately address subsequent to this General Plan and require that California State Parks set priorities. Many goals and guidelines within this Plan Section provide direction for management plans and/or studies. The following list is a summary of these future-planning efforts (see the referenced page number for a complete description of the guidelines.) Planning and feasibility studies and public coordination for these plans are ongoing but no permanent decisions will be determined prior to approval of the General Plan. All future efforts on specific management plans will involve the appropriate level of CEQA compliance and may include public participation above and beyond that required as part of the CEQA process. Implementation of such plans will incorporate mitigation measures including but not limited to natural and cultural resource protection or monitoring to avoid impacts, avoidance of work in nesting areas during breeding season, and possible closure or limitation of access to areas with sensitive resources if necessary.

3.4.1 CAMPING MANAGEMENT PLAN

This plan will be developed separately from the General Plan, and will serve as a tool for park management, with input and advice from user groups, to make decisions about camping as conditions and priorities change over the years. The Camping Management Plan, a living document to be continuously updated, will contain specific information on camping not included in the General Plan. A Public Use Interface Element of the Cultural Resource Management Plan will serve as one foundation for the Camping Management Plan, and will guide where camping can occur without affecting sensitive natural and cultural resources.

A total of 393 camping areas have been inventoried and mapped within the park. This inventory identifies the number of groups typically in the area, type of camping, typical distance from a paved road, availability of water, primary attraction, and associated problems. These problems include vehicle traffic, illegal use of firearms, ground fires, litter, vegetation damage, as well as, archaeological site damage. The inventory will support management and operational efforts to anticipate visitor-use patterns, prevent conflicts and problems associated with different types of recreational use, minimize impacts to sensitive resources, and assist with planning and development. Both social and resource carrying capacity for specific locations will be addressed and may require closure to certain activities, seasonal closures, or camping by lottery.

Areas of ABDSP now open to primitive camping may be recommended for designation as a Cultural or Natural Preserve (if designated as such, camping is not allowed). Zones designated by the General Plan will provide general rules and regulations governing the application of the Camping Management Plan.

3.4.2 ROADS MANAGEMENT PLAN

This plan will be developed separately from the General Plan, and will serve as a tool for park management, with input and advice from user groups, to make decisions about roads as conditions and priorities change over the years. The Roads Management Plan, a living document to be continuously updated, will contain specific information on park roads not included in the General Plan. The Park acknowledges the wide range of value that roads hold for park visitors. The consideration of these values represents a key to understanding the strong emotions evoked by the closure of roads, and will be fundamental to designing a management plan which fairly balances the privileges and needs of the visitor with protection of park resources, and to determining the appropriate level and type of recreational access. This plan may include realigning or closing sections of roads in order to protect sensitive resources. Relocation into the Wilderness Zone would require a change in sub-unit classification to be approved by the State Parks and Recreation Commission and may result in road closure rather than realignment. The Zones designated by the General Plan will provide general rules and regulations governing the application of the Roads Management Plan. A Public Use Interface Element of the Cultural Resource Management Plan will serve as one foundation for the Road Plan, and will guide where roads can occur without affecting sensitive natural and cultural resources. Mitigation measures in the Roads Management Plan will include the avoidance or minimization of impacts to natural, cultural, and aesthetic resources and monitoring of the effectiveness of such mitigation.

3.4.3 TRAILS MANAGEMENT PLAN

This plan will be developed separately from the General Plan, and will serve as a tool for park management, with input and advice from user groups, to make decisions about trails as conditions and priorities change over the years. The Trails Management Plan, a living document to be continuously updated, will contain specific information on park trails not included in the General Plan. The Park acknowledges the wide range of value and meaning that trails hold for park visitors. Perceiving these values is key to understanding the strong emotions evoked by the closure of trails, and fundamental to designing a management plan which fairly balances the privileges and needs of the visitor with protection of park resources, and to determining the appropriate level and type of recreational access. This plan may include realigning or closing sections of trails in order to protect sensitive resources. The Zones designated by the General Plan will provide general rules and regulations governing the application of the Trails Management Plan. This Plan may restore some gentle use on historic trails or keep the historic trail intact and provide a parallel route along the same corridor. Portions of many of these historic trail corridors remain inaccessible on private land but attempts will be made to keep trail access open along these corridors when in accordance with resource management guidelines.

3.4.4 CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN

This plan will be developed separately from the General Plan, with input from the public as well as stakeholders, and will serve as a tool for park management. This plan, representing a living document to be continually updated, contains information and recommendations specific to cultural resources of ABDSP.

The principal objectives of the *Cultural Resources Management Plan* will be to identify, evaluate, and provide recommendations for the protection of prehistoric archaeological sites, historic-period archaeological sites, historic buildings and structures, traditional cultural places, cultural landscapes, and other areas of cultural significance within ABDSP. The plan shall be based upon sound, high-quality, current scientific data and input from interested members of the public and stakeholders (e.g., Native Americans, other descendant groups, historic preservation organizations, archaeological avocational societies, and others). The *Cultural Resources Management Plan* will include the following elements or recommendations for future actions:

- periodic examinations and assessments of historical resources
- identify areas of extraordinary cultural significance or sensitivity (e.g., sacred sites, traditional cultural places, etc.)
- site monitoring programs
- assess the effects the following activities have on sensitive resources:
    - *camping*
    - *roads and trails*
    - *various forms of active recreation*
- formulate protocol for consultation with Native Americans and other descendant groups
- encourage scientific research
- formulate measures for the protection of historical resources during natural disasters such as, wildfires, earthquakes, floods, etc.
- identify procedures for planning new park development to avoid historical resources, or at least minimize impacts to them.
- identify areas of the Park that are too sensitive to allow film production and photography
- outline professional standards for evaluating and conserving highly sensitive archaeological sites and historic properties (e.g., aboriginal rock art, adobe structures, etc.)

- formulate measures to adequately protect archaeological sites (such as identification of camping areas, roads, trails, and other park facilities that are damaging to archaeological sites).
- Formulate measures for curation of archaeological and historical collections.

3.4.5 NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN

A Natural Resources Management Plan will be developed for ABDSP. The major goal for this plan will be to identify and prioritize key measures for achieving natural resources sustainability within the Park. These measures could include focused inventories, proposed acquisition, habitat restoration, ongoing maintenance, studies of ecological relationships, monitoring and assessment of status, proposed park policy, and sub-classifications of areas as Natural Preserves. This plan may also strive to further refine the natural resources inventory; determine gaps in natural resources inventory and monitoring activities; identify priorities for ongoing maintenance, projects, park planning, and acquisition in relation to natural resources; and assess the integrity of sensitive habitats and sensitive species/populations throughout the Park.

3.4.6 INTERPRETIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

An Interpretive Management Plan will be developed separate from the General Plan which will determine the appropriate interpretive services, facilities, programs, partnerships, and media to communicate in the most effective way the Park's purpose, significance, compelling stories, themes and values, while protecting and preserving park resources. The Interpretive Management Plan will identify key visitor experiences, both inside and outside the Park, and recommend ways to facilitate them. This plan will develop strategies to achieve California State Parks' intent in offering interpretive and educational programs and services, as well as a working blueprint describing what interpretive services will be offered to the public. The Interpretive Management Plan will establish a foundation for long-term direction, short-term problem solving, and annual program analysis.

3.4.7 FACILITIES PLAN

A Facilities Plan will be developed for ABDSP separate from the General Plan. This plan will evaluate existing facilities and provide a vision for the development of future staff- and visitor-use facilities. An objective of this plan will be to establish a projection of short- and long-range

facility needs based on an evaluation of anticipated visitor uses. This plan will include a sequence and timeline for the implementation of proposed facilities. The facilities proposed, will be compatible with guidelines and management zones specified in the General Plan.